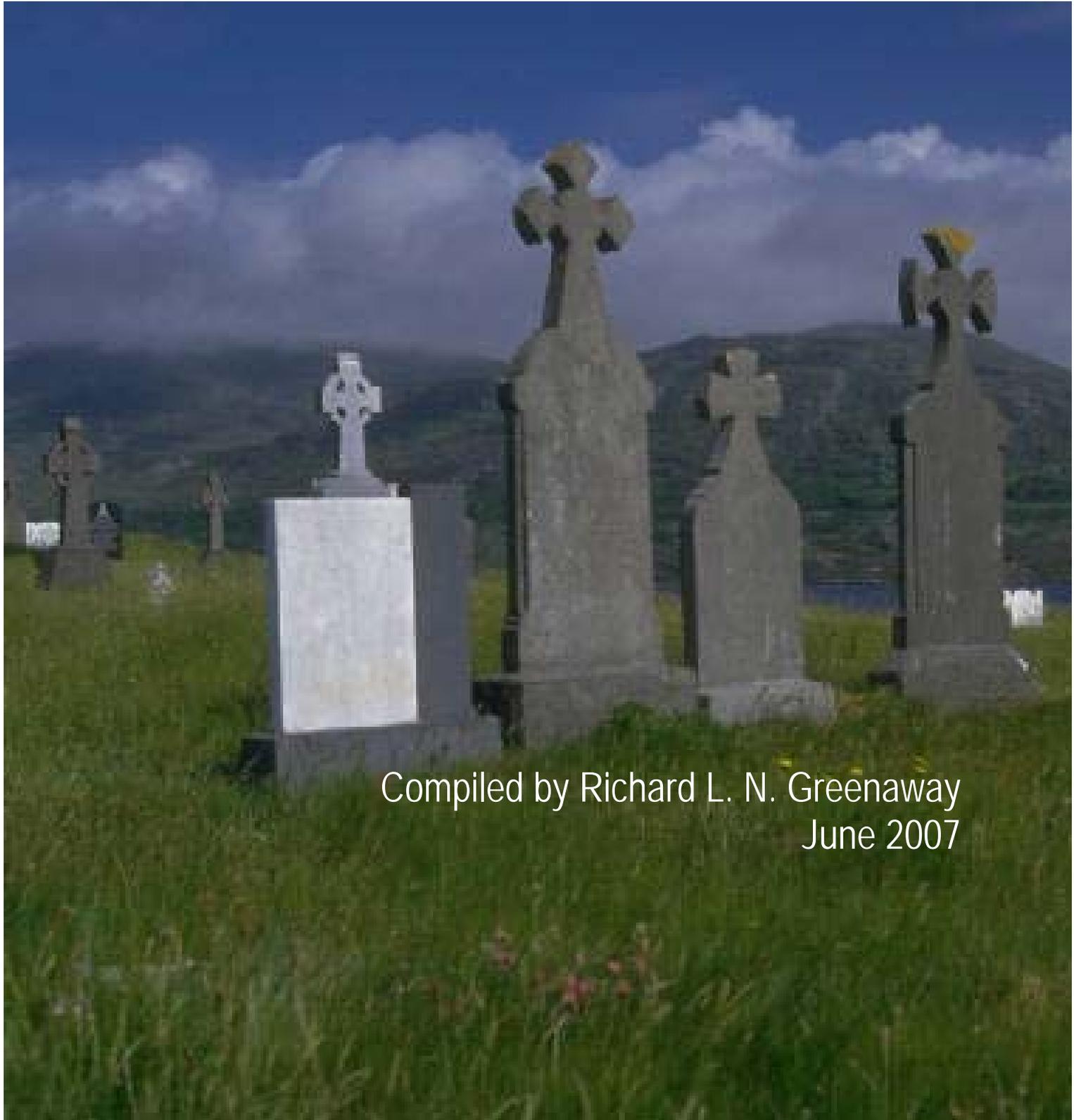


# Sydenham Cemetery Tour



Compiled by Richard L. N. Greenaway  
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## ORIGINS

In the 1880s there were reports that the Addington and Barbadoes Street cemeteries would be available only to people whose relatives were already buried in the respective graveyards; and that the Christchurch City Council was to open a cemetery at Linwood. Mr. Muffet, a Sydenham Borough councillor, proposed that his local authority should open a cemetery and several sites were examined. The borough treasurer then disclosed that he had 2000 pounds which had accrued from interest on unexpended loan money, deposited with the original loan money at the bank, which could be used for cemetery purposes.

There was opposition from Christchurch and some Sydenham ratepayers. Sidney Day, a supporter of cremation, got up a petition against the proposal and Thomas Edward 'Tommy' Taylor, later a famed prohibitionist and Member of Parliament, came to notice through speaking and writing against the establishment of the cemetery. By the time that the borough council was able to open its graveyard, the money in the bank had been frittered away. The council had to buy the land using ratepayers' money. As well, it had to raise a special loan.

In January 1897 there took place the consecration of the portion of the cemetery which had been set apart for members of the Church of England. Bishop Churchill Julius arrived at the cemetery in the company of the vicars of Sydenham and Addington, the Rev. E. A. Scott and the Rev. W. S. Bean and part of the choir of St. Saviour's, Sydenham. The Mayor of Sydenham, his Town Clerk, some councillors and the St. Saviour's wardens were also in attendance, 'beside a fair number of visitors.'

The bishop, clergy, surpliced choir and visitors 'then in procession walked round the portion of ground allotted to the Church of England, repeating psalms xlix and xc'. The bishop read the 'Sentence of Consecration', there was sung the hymn 'O Thou in whom Thy saints repose', the bishop offered up the prayers appointed for the consecration of burial grounds and the ceremony was closed with the Benediction and the hymn 'Abide with me.'

A journalist wrote:

The new cemetery consists of about 16 acres .... a handsome gateway leads to what, in a few years, will be a fine avenue of trees and shrubs. This avenue is about eight chains long and leads to the cemetery, which is very neatly laid out, and divided into allotments for the different denominations .... The arrangement reflects great credit on the council.

**Area 1**  
**Row A**  
**No. 1**  
**Deyell**

George Deyell, a ploughman of County Cavan, Ireland, married Margaret Shields. On 26 December 1862 the family arrived in Lyttelton on the *Mermaid*. The couple lived in Windmill Road (later Antigua Street), attended St. Saviour's Anglican church, Sydenham, and had at least six children. George Deyell junior was to take over his father's carting and contracting business. It is not surprising that, at St. Saviour's, on 14 September 1905, he married Henrietta Kate Griffiths. Henrietta was the daughter of another Sydenham identity, Austin Secundus Griffiths.

The Deyell gravestone refers to two children who died before the cemetery opened and are buried elsewhere. John William, two, died on 11 July 1866, and Lucy, nine months, died on 9 June 1881.

George Deyell, 61, died as the result of a stroke on 24 May 1901. Margaret Deyell, 84, died on 21 May 1926

**No. 10**  
**Caygill**

Born at Bradford, Yorkshire in 1856, John Allott Caygill was the son of John Caygill, a shoemaker, and his wife, Elizabeth. In 1863 the Caygills and their children, Mary, 10, Susan, eight, John, six, Martha, three, and Obed, an infant, emigrated on the *Captain Cook*.

After attending the Wesleyan School in High Street, John Allott was, in July 1867, placed first in the Junior Provincial Scholarships. He studied at Christ's College from 1868-71, being No. 328 in the *Christ's College school list*. Obed Caygill attended Christ's College from 1874-75.

On leaving school, John Caygill taught in the primary schools at Sheffield and Russell's Flat. He left the profession saying that there were not enough pupils to keep him in employment; apparently, he was paid per capita. After studying for the ministry of the United Free Methodist Church in 1875 he served at Reefton, Waipukurau, Hawkes Bay and Auckland.

In 1878 Caygill studied law, being articled to Frederick Wilding, Christchurch lawyer, cricketer, tennis player and father of future tennis star, Anthony Wilding. Wilding's Ashburton representative for five years, he went into partnership with Helyar Widdowson about 1893, and this association lasted till his death.

'Well-read ... [and a] good speaker and debater,' Caygill was a Sydenham Borough councillor and council representative on the North Canterbury Hospital Board. He was best known for his interest in sport. A founder of the Sydenham Amateur Swimming Club, he helped establish a public swimming bath in the borough and was a delegate to the New Zealand Swimming Association.

In 1878 Caygill helped found the Hagley Oak Leaf Cricket Club. He was a founder of the Addington Club which became the Sydenham and Addington United Cricket Club. The union came about when Sydenham Methodist minister Leonard Isitt persuaded John and Obed Caygill to merge their club with that associated with Isitt's church. The club was based at Sydenham Park which, earlier, had been the home of the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association.

Caygill was Sydenham and Addington club representative on the Canterbury Cricket Association, that body making him one of the selectors of the inter-provincial team. When the Lancaster Park Club was formed, he was elected assistant-secretary.

Till early 1898 Caygill was active in his local club. Diagnosed with cancer soon after, he underwent an operation in Sydney and returned to Christchurch in July. 'Though with great courage he continued to attend to his business, his health was permanently shattered'. When the new cricket season began, 'he was generally to be seen on the ground as a spectator'. Illness returned in December, Caygill gave up work and was confined to his bed. He was told that Dan Reese had made 88 for New Zealand and his dying words were "Good old Dan". The immediate cause of John's death, on 18 February 1899, was paralysis.

In *Star* reminiscences Jimmy Fowke described John as

... a keen cricketer, a patient batsman ... who did yeoman service in all directions for the ... club. He was most painstaking in whatever work he took up and tried to build up his club by encouraging younger players.

John's duties 'brought him into contact with people in both islands and he gained the friendship of many and the esteem of all'. He was 'a lover of true amateur sport, a true sportsman himself and a thorough gentleman ...'. The biographer G. R. Macdonald wrote 'He shared in the Caygill family enthusiasms – the Methodist church, the Prohibition movement and cricket.'

On 25 February 1902, at her residence, Southey Street, Sydenham, John's wife, Martha, 53, succumbed suddenly to a cerebral haemorrhage and coma.

Daughters who were buried with or whose ashes were interred with their parents were Susann Maud (died 24 February 1959), Mabel (died 11 February 1960) and Dora Isabel (died 17 March 1961). Dora had worked as a primary school teacher.

Obed Caygill's son, Ernest, was an accountant and leading light in the St. Albans Methodist church. Ernest's son, Bruce, was the father of David Caygill, Member of Parliament for St. Albans from 1978-96, minister in the 1984-90 Labour Government, and deputy-leader of his party.

## **No. 24 Lawry**

Born at St. Mabyn, Cornwall, in 1854 Samuel Lawry belonged to a family whose links with Methodism dated from the time of John Wesley. He, his nine siblings and parents, Walter and Gertrude, emigrated to Canterbury on the *Queen of the Mersey* in 1862. Walter, a farmer, became a long-term local preacher at Springston.

A local preacher at 18, Samuel was a man of great physical strength and travelled on horseback throughout the province. His stamina would enable him, during a seven year posting, to ride annually over 4000 miles on horseback. He trained under the Rev. J. B. Richardson (who was to drown in the 1881 wreck of the *Tararua*), was accepted as a candidate for the ministry in 1876, and was among the first students at the Three Kings Theological and Training Institution, Auckland. From the college he was the first to be called into circuit work.

Lawry served at Rangitikei, Mornington, Hokitika, Franklin, Upper Thames, Hamilton, Ashburton, Grafton Road (Auckland), Manukau, Palmerston North, Sydenham and Papanui, was 34 years in circuit work and, in nearly all his appointments, was superintendent minister.

Lawry fought in the long, ultimately fruitless Prohibition campaign, being known for his indomitable spirit. Perhaps this activity suggested that he would have capacity for executive work. Early appointed to the board of examiners for candidates and probationers, he occupied a place on the board for longer than any of his contemporaries.

Lawry was entrusted with administrative tasks in both the New Zealand and Australasian conferences of the church. In New Zealand between 1895 and 1913 he was, at various times, secretary of the conference and chairman and secretary of several divisions. In 1904 he was elected president of the conference of the Methodist Church of Australasia in New Zealand. In the Methodist Church of Australasia general conference he was assistant secretary in 1896 and from 1907-10, and general treasurer of the supernumerary fund from 1911-13. He was treasurer of the separate New Zealand fund from 1913-22.

Appointed connexional secretary of the Methodist Church of New Zealand in 1911, Lawry held this position for 16 years. In this capacity he was involved with the administration of most of the major committees and funds of the church as well as being its authorized representative. He had an analytical mind, forceful intellect, memory for detail and aggressive temperament. In connexional committees he

... showed himself a wise counsellor, while in the church courts his intimate knowledge of church law and procedure gave him a place of power. His skill in debate made him a notable figure in the assemblies of the church.

Lawry worked vigorously to secure legal administrative independence from the Australian church in 1913 and helped bring about the union of the different branches of Methodism in New Zealand the same year. In Christchurch, on Sunday 11 May, an interchange of pulpits among the ministers took place. The following Thursday there was a united Tea Meeting. Several addresses followed, Lawry speaking on 'the call to

evangelism in the united church'. Lawry's contemporaries recognized his achievements by electing him president of the United Conference in 1913.

Business manager of the *Methodist times*, Lawry was a member of the executive of the prohibitionist organization, the New Zealand Alliance; a member of the board of governors of Canterbury University College and the Boys' Gordon Hall Trust (whose Christchurch building overlooked Cambridge Terrace in the area where the police station now stands).

Despite his 'success in executive positions ... business routine ... [and] ... office management', Lawry's supreme loves were 'the task of the preacher of the Gospel and ... doing the work of an evangelist'. In these tasks he was aided by a clear, penetrating voice which meant that he 'could ... be heard with the utmost ease'.

Although Lawry retired in 1927, he was involved in church management till his death, being chairman of the Methodist Fire Insurance Board and a member of other boards and committees. He spent 56 years in the ministry and his gravestone records that he was 'an honoured minister in the Methodist Church of New Zealand'.

On 7 February 1881, at Bulls, Samuel Lawry married Janet McHardie. Janet died of a stroke on 31 August 1920 and Samuel of nephritis on 26 July 1933. He was survived by two daughters and three sons, the latter being H. P., Stipendiary Magistrate and coroner, Melville, an architect, and Raymond.

Born at Ashburton in 1891, Raymond Lawry attended Christchurch Boys' High School, worked for a lawyer, J. A. Flesher, and studied law at Canterbury University College. Enlisting as a second lieutenant at the outbreak of World War I, he rose to the rank of major. Twice wounded at Gallipoli, he was sent to England to recuperate, was adjutant at Sling Camp on the Salisbury Plain, and then staff major at Rouen, France. He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1918.

Raymond Lawry was much involved with the repatriation of New Zealand soldiers, returning himself in 1920. He completed his LL.B. degree, then left to farm in Kenya but spent most of his time as town clerk of Nakuru.

Early in 1937 Raymond had a severe illness. In October he returned to New Zealand for rest and treatment. He intended to return to Kenya but died of a heart attack, aged 46 on 20 January 1938. He was buried with his parents. Samuel and Raymond both died at Melville's Mount Pleasant home.

## No 31 Hammett

John Hammett was born at Sandford, Devonshire in 1857, and, in Exeter, apprenticed as a builder. Later he was employed by Cubits and Sons of London, gaining practical knowledge of the application of machinery in joinery work. In 1883 he arrived in Christchurch and established himself as a builder and contractor with a sawing, planing and general joinery works.

Hammett built D. H. Brown's Brookfield roller flour mills and grain stores and the Beswick family's residence at Fendalton. In 1899 the brothers R. W. and E. H. England were employed as architects by John Deans II who wanted to extend Riccarton House so that it might comfortably house John, his wife, Edith, and their 11 children. A large part of the old house was removed, a bedroom wing and new service rooms were erected to the south, and there were added a large entrance hall and stair lobby, drawing-room and first-floor bedroom accommodation.

Gordon Ogilvie commented:

The 1900 additions dominate the appearance of the building today with the elaborate late Victorian double verandahs, coupled columns, great stud height, new chimney tops, pagoda-like gables, tall French doors and wide-panelled entrance door contrasting with the simplicity of older portions of the house.

Modern architectural opinions of the additions vary. To John Hendry this is 'a resplendent hulk ... a truly magnificent essay in timber.' Don Donnithorne describes the work as 'a rather pretentious climax [a] grandiose design ... deliberately contrived to emphasize the wealth and power of the occupants.' Perhaps the house is both. In the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* Hammett reminded readers that he was the builder who turned the architectural design into reality. He also associated himself with the first days of the colony by mentioning that Riccarton House was 'close to the site of the first house erected in Canterbury.'

Hammett enthused about the success of his operation, at 63 Selwyn Street:

Owing to the large increase in his business, Mr. Hammett has recently erected one of the most modern joinery plants in New Zealand. The whole of the machinery, which was made by the celebrated firm of Messrs. Sagar and Co. of Halifax, England, is driven by a powerful engine. His planing and moulding machine, which is used for raised door panels, mouldings and architraves, can be adjusted to cut the most complicated designs and the work turned out is so true and clean that very little labour is required to give it a high finish. The panelling machine, which is also strongly built, does its work equally well. A band saw, a circular, crescent saw, and a mortising machine form part of the plant. The workshops and machine room are skilfully planned; the shafting for driving the various machines is under the floor - a contrivance which minimizes the chances of accident and admits of the long lengths of timber being moved about without inconvenience.

Hammett acknowledged his employees, stating that he had 'a large permanent staff of expert workmen, some of whom have been with him for many years'.

John Hammett married Esther Harding. Esther, 52, died of heart disease on 17 May 1913. On 29 December 1936 John, 79, died at 468 Barrington Street, Spreydon, the residence of his daughter, Mrs. H. J. Burley.

**Row C**  
**No. 178**  
**Fry**

On 1 October 1863, at Port Levy, the Rev. George James Cholmondeley officiated at the wedding of his sister, Caroline, 25, spinster, to John Fry, 20, bachelor. John was variously described as a labourer and farm servant. The witnesses were the bride's mother, Mary Christian Cholmondeley, and her brother, Charles Pitt Cholmondeley, Port Levy, a stock owner. On 2 October Caroline gave birth to a daughter. The Cholmondeleys did not try to hush things up but, rather, published details of the marriage and birth in the *Lyttelton times*. On 18 July 1952 the chronicler, George Ranald Macdonald, was to write: 'Not quite in the nick of time or born in the vestry but very near it'.

A second daughter was born to the couple, after which Caroline was admitted to Sunnyside Asylum. There, at 40, in November 1878, she died of tuberculosis. The younger daughter died shortly thereafter. Both were buried in the Woolston/Heathcote Cemetery in Rutherford Street.

On 12 April 1880, at the manse, Christchurch (the home of the Rev. Charles Fraser), Fraser officiated at the wedding of 37 year old widower and farmer, John Fry, and 32 year old Scottish-born spinster Christina McLaren. The witnesses were Fraser's servant, Mary Scarlet, and William S. Taylor of Walker Street, a missionary.

John and Christina farmed at Hanmer. On 29 September 1913, in her 66<sup>th</sup> year, Christina, a widow, died of a stroke. With her lies her granddaughter, Dorothy Jean, daughter of John Douglas and Florence Jane Fry who died, aged five years, on 18 February 1921.

In Area 1 Row H No. 523 there are buried Florence Jane Fry, 43, who died on 14 October 1923, and John Douglas Fry, 83, who died on 14 August 1966. John Douglas' second wife, Clara Annie, 72, died on 9 July 1955 and is buried in Area I Row K with her parents, James and Clara Robertson.

**Row D**  
**No. 274-275**  
**Soman**

A Londoner of Scottish origins, Alexander Wilson went to India with his bride, formerly, Miss Cracroft of Hackthorne, Lincolnshire. A son, John Cracroft Wilson, was born at Madras in 1808, studied – and married - in England and returned to India to become magistrate at Cawnpore and Mooradabad. After producing eight children, the first Mrs. Wilson, Elizabeth, died in 1843. John's second wife was Jane Greig.

In 1854 Wilson came to Australia on leave on a ship dubbed 'Wilson's Noah's Ark'. With him came his wife, a daughter, two Eurasians, two Calcutta Free School boys(Eurasians), 13 Indians and livestock including one highly bred, very powerful Damascus Arab stallion, 'Wanderer'; two Bokhara asses; two Chinese pigs; spotted and hog deer; antelopes; five Agra goats; eight peacocks and peahens; 10 hares; three rabbits; game fowl; guinea fowl; and grey, black and French partridges. Wilson also brought rhododendrons, bamboo and seeds. The male ass fell into a hold at Port Philip and was killed and an Indian was killed at Melbourne.

Geraldine sheep farmer Alfred Cox persuaded Wilson to look at New Zealand property. On the trans-Tasman voyage, food, water and fuel were scarce. The bodies of 1200 out of 2000 sheep had to be thrown overboard and, owing to cold southerlies and tutu poisoning, more were lost at Gollans Bay. The Chinese pigs, goats and one peacock were among the stock which survived as did the stallion which bred well. Wilson purchased three sheep stations and Port Hills property. The latter he called 'Cashmere' after Kashmir, his favourite part of India. This land, 2000 hectares in extent, stretched from Huntsbury Hill to Worsleys Road spur, out over the flat to what became Sparks and Sunderland roads, and across the skyline to Governors Bay. There was much swamp, 'impenetrable, full of flax, toi-toi and niggerheads.'

In India during the Mutiny, Wilson worked hard to end the rebellion. Governor-General Canning put him first among many names for mention 'because of his enviable distinction of having, by his obstinate courage and perseverance, saved more Christian lives than any other man ...'

In 1859 Wilson chartered the *Armenian* and, with a retinue of Indian servants, came back to Canterbury. Locals called him 'Nabob' Wilson to distinguish him from 'Parson' James Wilson and the city's first mayor, William 'Cabbage' Wilson. Crosbie Ward described how Wilson regaled his Canterbury peers about life in India.

The Nabob is coming, oh dear, oh dear.  
The Nabob is coming, oh dear,  
with Indian stories  
in which all the glory  
was gained by a gent from Cashmere.

Fond of music, especially the flute, the 'Nabob' was always on the lookout for an accompanist. A central and local body politician, he was knighted. He supported

neither the extension of the franchise to the masses nor the free, secular and compulsory primary school education of their children. Hearing of the education of Indians in India, Wilson commented: 'They are educating the natives. The day will come when they will regret it. Education, newspapers and the telegraph ... will be the downfall of British rule in India'.

Wilson was a benevolent squire to the people who lived on or near his estate. Although philosophically against the education of the great European unwashed, he picked up children who were walking to school and, at prize-givings, gave the prizes; everyone got a present whether a prize-winner or not. Wilson supplied donkeys for school picnics and any boy who could ride them received a handful of sweets. Each year the parents were given great amounts of food at the school picnic.

Wilson laboured with his employees to drain the Cashmere swamp, accepting that, in the new colony, all classes had to work. Nevertheless, a person's rank was still determined by 'birth, education and ... antecedents.' Of gentlemen he commented:

In the evening you will see them at a party dressed in a black coat and white choker as if they had never known such a thing as a dray or a bullock yoke.

Wilson was parsimonious in his treatment of European employees. Charles Williams was bound to him for five years and laboured in the bush for board, food and ten pounds a year which 'would not keep him in clothes and boots'. He deserted, working near Oamaru for one pound a week till Wilson took him to court. The magistrate dismissed the case as the prisoner had been a minor when he signed the agreement. Wilson promptly appealed to the Supreme Court.

Some indentured Indian servants could not cope with the cold climate and died or returned to India. One woman died from possibly self-inflicted tutu poisoning. Some men held against the 'Nabob' the fact that, if they absconded, he took them to court so that he might get them back to Cashmere. Then there were servants who worked patiently for the man whom they called 'Your Excellency' and who spoke their language. Wilson allowed his labourers land and stock, provided houses for those who retired in his service and granted freedom to men whose time was up.

In 1860 'A lover of justice' told the *Lyttelton times* how 'a poor vagabond Hindoo', Goordeen, had been 'lately considered unfit to be admitted into the hospital on account of the miserably filthy condition of his person and was accommodated for a fortnight in the dead house'. 'The writer wondered about Wilson's duty in the case, especially as the man was now sleeping in his stable.

It had suited Wilson's purpose to bring a number of Indians to Canterbury

...but it is not to be tolerated that when one of them ... has either served his time or been dismissed, that he should be cast loose upon society, a useless, miserable wanderer, alternating between the gaol and the hospital. What has happened with one, may happen with a dozen, and I can ... see no reason ... why I should not, some fine morning, find a dozen miserable, uncleanly Indians sleeping in my outhouse.

Wilson stated that Gourdeen had completed his indentures and had since done some 'weeding in the garden' and, on another occasion, 'actually did grub flax for two hours.' However, he had deserted 'and employed himself reaping crops by contract, a task at which he is a first class hand.' The reaping season having finished, Gourdeen had 'assumed the manners of an idiot and ... loiters about the public houses dancing and amusing the bystanders who are said to repay him with nobblers'.

Wilson continued:

Goordeen has still a comfortable glazed room kept for him at Cashmere but if he prefers such places as the outhouse of 'A lover of justice', the laws of the land will hardly permit of my insisting upon his using the superior accommodation; although, if the Resident Magistrate will send him to Cashmere, I will do my best to put a stop to his present disreputable mode of life.

It was Wilson's wish that Gourdeen be sent back to Calcutta in the first available vessel. Alas higher freights were procurable 'for conveying guano from Callao that Indian produce from Calcutta' and no ship had yet been laid out for the latter port.

The Indian servants dwelt in structures set into recesses along the eastern side of what is now Shalamar Drive. In 1870 the 'Nabob' had stone quarried from part of his estate, Marleys Hill, and built for his workers an accommodation house where they lived like an extended family. Reminiscent of old English farm houses, the structure had a lower ground floor for storage and stables, a main ground floor for cooking, eating and communal rooms, while the first floor contained the bulk of the sleeping quarters. Proud of building the structure, Wilson had engraved in a stone high up on the central gable, an emblem, motto and, underneath, the words 'John Cracroft Wilson C. B' and, underneath again, 'A. D. 1870'. The building became known as the Old Stone House.

Wilson has been described as a 'daring, high-spirited, proud man, brooking no contradiction' and as 'stubborn, fiery tempered, egocentric, contentious and haughty'. Yet he was 'public spirited, known for his honesty and straight dealing and capable of great kindness to others.' He made Cashmere 'a name for hospitality to visitors from the Duke of Edinburgh and Lord Charles Beresford to Billy Hoskins ... and any strolling player'. He died on 2 March 1881 and was buried in the churchyard of St. Mary's, Halswell.

One servant, John Sohman served his master during the Mutiny and then worked at Cashmere. On 23 November 1874 his five month old son, Charles, was buried in the Anglican section of the Barbadoes Street Cemetery. Later John settled on the corner of Bay Road and Church Street, Oxford, becoming a staunch supporter of the Salvation Army. When he died on 9 January 1916, his death notice stated that he was 87. His tombstone in the Oxford Cemetery gives his age as 98.

One of John's sons had a forename Rumshi, Rumchurra or Ramchurn. His surname became Soman. Born in India about 1857, he was brought to New Zealand when one

year old. In youth he may have acted as equerry as the elderly Wilson. In 1949 Douglas Cresswell wrote:

But what was dearest to his [Wilson's] heart were his horses grazing on the reclaimed swamp. On one of these swift horses, attended by his native groom, Rumchurra, he was a well known figure. Carrying a flute in his valise, he travelled the province like the wind.

Certainly Ramchurn would have been part of exotic cavalcades which came to Christchurch. Douglas Cresswell wrote:

In his [Wilson's] absence at the Mutiny, his donkeys had been crossed with horses and the mules that resulted were ideal for the boggy ground between Cashmere and Christchurch. There would be four mules, or six mules, or eight mules, harnessed two and two to a dray, and some sort of a box on top, with Sir John on top of the lot. The harness sparkling with Indian metal. The foreign voices. The salaaming. The turbans. The cracking of whips. Just imagine it.

Ramchurn, also a shepherd and farm labourer, dwelt at Strickland, Devon and Angus streets. On 10 July 1879, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian manse, Christchurch, the Rev. Charles Fraser officiated at the wedding of 'Ramchuun Somman', 22, bachelor, bullock driver, and Catherine Anne Osborne, 21, spinster, nurse girl.

On 15 June 1913 Ramchurn was brought from 34 Durham Street and, at Christchurch Hospital, died of hydatids of the liver and heart failure. Doubtless Ramchurn was afflicted with hydatids through long contact with infected dogs. A Salvation Army officer, C. Dawkins, took the funeral service.

Ramchurn was survived by his wife, two sons and five daughters. Children baptized at St. Saviour's were Osborne Thomas (born 1881), Patience Eva May (born 1884), Annie (born 1886) and Irene Jane (born 1890), Leonard Richard (born 1895) and Robert Ramchurn (born 1897).

Catherine Soman made her home at 22 Wordsworth Street. On 12 September 1920, at Wordsworth Street, Leonard, a plumber, died of pulmonary tuberculosis.

Robert Ramchurn Soman had a short but colourful career. A french polisher, he was, during World War I, a private in the 20<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements. On 5 January 1921, at the Presbyterian church, Linwood, Robert, 23 married Veda May Griffith, 18. Their daughter, Nellie Nola, was born on 7 February 1921.

Robert strayed from the marriage bed. Veda served a divorce petition on him at his mother's home. She alleged that he was 'guilty of adultery ... on 1 January 1923 and other days between that date and the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March 1923 ... with one Doris Gray of the ... city of Christchurch, spinster, in the city of Christchurch'. Veda's lawyer was Waldegrave John Cracroft Wilson. Robert, was represented by P. P. J. Amodeo, did not contest the suit. Veda swore that she had not

... been in any way accessory to or conniving at the adultery of the respondent as set forth ... or has condoned the same or that the petition is presented or prosecuted in collusion with the respondent.

Veda gained a decree absolute on 19 May 1925. In 1929 Robert was co-respondent when James Ramsay sought a divorce from his wife, Margaret, by whom he had had several children.

Robert, 40, died, at Christchurch Hospital, on 28 October 1937. His death notice stated that he was the 'only surviving son of Catherine Annie and the late R. Soman' and that he was 'the beloved father of Nola Soman'.

Catherine Soman, 77, 'a patient sufferer', died on 14 March 1941. Irene, an unmarried daughter of Ramchurn and Catherine, died on 7 June 1959. She left her property to her nieces and nephew, Vivien Ruby Homes, Catherine Annie Homes, Frederick Leonard Evans, a clerk, and Nellie Nola Soman. Her executors were Frederick Leonard Evans and Nellie Nola Soman, a schoolteacher. Nellie was to marry a man named Caird.

**Row C**  
**No. 202**  
**Soman**

Leonard Frank Homes, son of Ruby Homes nee Soman, was born in 1926 and, at his death, on 22 October 1949, was living at 71 Durham Street. His aunt, Annie Soman, a tailoress, was 63, unmarried, and resident at 22 Wordsworth Street, when she died on 13 June 1950. Another aunt, Doris Muriel, who was born in 1902, married Christchurch Tramway Board employee Frederick James Evans at St. Saviour's on 23 April 1925. Doris died on 8 November 1944, being survived by her husband, at that time an army private, and a son, Frederick Leonard. Frederick Leonard Evans, who was born on 8 March 1927, lived at 109 Simeon Street and died on 19 February 2000.

**Row H**  
**No. 569**  
**Bowron**

Born in Durham, England, in 1858, George Bowron was educated at Taunton and King's College. He came to Canterbury when a young man and founded the firm of Bowron Brothers, tanners. One of his tanneries, on Ferry Road opposite Rutherford Street, burned down in April 1905. The second was a very profitable concern. Bowron sold it to an Australian concern which retained the name Bowron Brothers, attained only limited success and sold it.

Bowron belonged to the syndicate whose architects, the Luttrell brothers, designed the Royal Exchange Building (later the Regent Theatre) in Cathedral Square. A director of the New Zealand Electrical Company which electrified the Christchurch tramway system, he was also a director of the Christchurch Meat Company.

Active in Methodism, Bowron helped established the Fire Insurance Board and Methodist Deaconesses Institute. He was on the committee which managed both organisations. Associated with the establishment of a superannuation fund for Methodist ministers, he was also concerned with helping these men into a home of their own during retirement. Long associated with Methodist orphanages, he was, towards the end of his life, promoting the establishment of an orphanage at Papanui. Bowron was the church's lay treasurer and helped it generously out of his own funds.

Bowron married Mary Elizabeth Cooke of Stanmore Road and they had nine children. Mrs. Bowron and five of the couple's children were alive when George, 76, died at his home in Hackthorne Road on 14 April 1935. Mary Bowron, 86, died in 1945.

**Row J**  
**No. 713**  
**Sykes**

Born in Yorkshire in 1852, David Sykes became a cabinetmaker and upholsterer and married his wife, Jane, in August 1872. Attracted by the possibilities of New Zealand, he arrived in the 1880s Depression when the rate of pay was nearer seven shillings per day rather than the 14 he had expected. After three years as foreman for a cabinetmaker, Mr. Hooker, he established his own business. The family lived in Spreydon.

Active in the Spreydon Baptist Church where he became a life deacon, Sykes was also chairman of the Spreydon School committee. In sport, he neglected his English passion, football, and, instead, became president of the Spreydon Cricket Club. A Spreydon Borough councillor, he was, in 1906, elected Spreydon-Addington representative on the Christchurch Tramway Board. The board was required to build, maintain and service a greater mileage of rail to the number of passengers carried than in any other town in the country. It was also required to maintain a strip of roadway on either side of the track. In effect, the board had to subsidize competitors, be they the masses on their bicycles, the prosperous in their cars or private buses. Many lines, which had been inherited from public companies, made considerable losses, in particular, the City and Suburban Tramway Company's route to New Brighton via Burwood and North Beach.

A further problem was that the board was determined to squeeze all it could from revenue and avoid striking a rate. At the same time, it knew that large sums were owed to debenture holders and must be repaid in 1934.

Both the Labour Party and Citizen's Association wished to preserve the tramway system and supported 1926 legislation which allowed local authorities to license – or refuse to license – private bus companies. In Christchurch most companies were killed off, the conspicuous survivor being Walter Bussell's popular Inter-City Motor Bus service which ran from the city, through Wainoni onto the North Beach tram route. Bussell was adept at supplementing his usual income by filching from the tram holiday groups who were going to the beach or races. The fact that Bussell survived owed much to the support of the wily Daniel Giles 'Dan' Sullivan, a future Mayor of

Christ- church and Labour Cabinet minister. In 1926 he was a Christchurch City councillor and M.P. for Avon, the area where dwelt Bussell's most loyal supporters.

Most board members were reluctant to punish North Beach commuters for catching the bus rather than the tram. David Sykes had no such qualms. He told other members:

The North Beach people don't deserve any consideration from the hands of the board ... They are encouraging opposition .... If they want a bus service, let them have a bus service.

In the 1920s the board tinkered with but rejected the idea of pulling up the old line between the Burwood Anglican church and the sea. In vain David Sykes thundered:

You claim to be a board of businessmen. There is not much business gumption in opening a line that has been condemned, a piece of dangerous, worn-out line involving continuous repairs. It is folly, dangerous and criminal to open that piece of line.

By the 1930s the Labour Party was prominent in parliamentary and Christchurch City Council politics. With its Citizens' Association majority, the tramway board remained 'a Tory island in the pink sea of Labour Christchurch'.

In the early 1930s, the depths of the Depression, the great majority on the board supported the rationing of work, reduction of staffing and vindictive sacking of 12 men, including tramway union president 'Jock' Mathison. These events led to the 1932 tramway strike in which

... strikers ... picketed, marched and engaged in sabotage, ambushing trams and stealing the keys, putting spikes on the road and trying to short out the electrical wires. A mass picket at the depot became a running battle between strikers and their supporters and police and 'specials' [men who protected the 'scab' labour which was running the system] .... Thousands protested in the Square, and there were many scuffles and arrests before arbitration began ....

The arbitrator, Arthur Donnelly, insisted that a new workforce should be created and consist of some of the union and some of the 'scab' men. Thus some old hands and some of the 'scabs' would lose their jobs.

Sykes, an independent, was not wholly unsympathetic to the union and, indeed, as the strike loomed, advocated compromise. Nevertheless, some contemporaries and later historians lumped him in with those board members which sought to crush the union. Mathison styled him 'Old Sykes ... a bitter anti-Labour fellow.' In *The lucifer*, Dave Welch described Sykes as 'a righteous religious man of the old order ... who did not take kindly to workers challenging the authority of the employers.'

David Sykes had 'the longest unbroken service as a member of the board' - from 1906 till his retirement just prior to the elections of 14 October 1933. It was probably just as well that he did not seek re-election as he might have suffered the humiliation

experienced by several colleagues who were dumped. Labour took control of the board, raised rates and give priority to the hiring to former strikers.

David Sykes died at his home in Lincoln Road on 11 December 1934.

**Row N**  
**No. 974**  
**Cooke**

Born at Leeds, England, on 28 April 1867, Frederick Riley Cooke was the son of a tailor. He started work at seven, took up his father's trade and, at Bradford, on 1 April 1891, married a mill worker, Ida Clough.

Bradford, dominated by the textile industry, was noted for poverty, overcrowding and substandard working conditions. Here the Independent Labour Party, precursor of the modern Labour Party was born, Cooke being one of its founders.

Cooke retained links with religion, supported Prohibition and believed in international working class brotherhood. Influenced by *Clarion* articles on New Zealand's progressive industrial laws, he, his family and about 200 other 'Clarionettes' emigrated, intending to establish a co-operative settlement. No suitable land could be found and the group broke up.

Cooke spent 10 years as a tailor for J. Ballantyne and Co., and, in 1911, established his own business; his wife provided the book-keeping skills. At the same time Cooke engaged in intensive farming at Marshland. From 1913 he was a union secretary, representing tailors, tailoresses and dress and mantle makers.

In 1901 and 1902 Cooke had helped found the Wellington and Christchurch branches of the New Zealand Socialist Party. In 1916 the 'tailor and conscience of Christchurch socialism' became a member of the newly-formed New Zealand Labour Party and, in 1921-22, was president. A parliamentary candidate for the Socialist Party, he later stood for Labour in seats which could not be won.

Cooke, a pacifist, was imprisoned for expressing his opposition to the 1909 Defence Act which subjected young men to compulsory military training. His second son, Harry, was jailed for refusing to register.

When the Great War broke out in 1914, Cooke considered it an Old World capitalist plot. He was saddened by the fact that workers saw the world from a national perspective and failed to end the conflict by instituting an international strike. Reluctantly he accepted that, if young New Zealanders wished to volunteer for service, that was their right. He commented:

What matters if civilization is destroyed? There are guns to sell. There are ships to sell. There are contracts to be had. There are thousands of surplus population to be destroyed quickly.

He went on:

They say: "Will you fight for the Old Land?" No, I will not. I will not. I will not fight for the Duke of Devonshire, of Westminster, of Richmond, of St. Albans. I won't. But New Zealand is another proposition. England gets to war. They call on this country and all the Dominions to help them. Well, that is the business of the volunteers. They can please themselves.

In 1916 the Government introduced conscription. On Sunday 10 December, at the Socialist Hall, Fred spoke to a large number of men, some of military age, and argued that the law was 'framed for slaves'. "If we accept these War Regulations and do not criticize the government, we will sink to the level of the Hindoo workers."

At the request of the police, shorthand typist Andrew Burns took a verbatim report of the speech and Cooke was charged with sedition. The prosecution argued that portions of the speech

... were distinctly contrary to the letter and spirit of the regulations and had a direct tendency against the military service law and were aimed against the prosecution of the war to a victorious conclusion.

Magistrate H. W. Bishop confirmed Cooke's view that the law was 'framed for slaves' when he said:

... You have no right to criticize the Government .... The Government takes up this attitude that no man shall be allowed to criticize to the detriment of recruiting requirements of the country.

Cooke became confused when defending himself. He argued that the war was problem not for New Zealand but for England and that, 'as a Britisher', he should not have to submit to the court. Found guilty, he was jailed for one year with hard labour.

Edwin John Howard described the situation thus:

... Semple was gaoled and it was resolved that his wife and family should not suffer for want of food. Before the Lyttelton Gaol gate was locked on Brother Semple, Fred Cooke was arrested. Then, during the conference, Pat Fraser was arrested. Tom Brindle took Fraser's tea to the watch house and was arrested. By this time every one who was prominent at all in the labour movement was expecting a little tap on the shoulder and the 'come along with me.'

Labour leaders who suffered Cooke's fate included Tom Brindle, James Thorn, Bob Semple and Peter Fraser. Cooke may have considered himself in excellent company. Ironically, the last three were to prosecute World War II, Fraser as Prime Minister.

After the war Cooke opposed the existence of standing armies in capitalist states, arguing that such forces were a weapon in the hands of the capitalist class and should exist only in socialist societies. This viewpoint marginalized him at a time when the bulk of the party was moving away from anti-militarism. He argued that, at each

general election, there should be a plebiscite on land nationalization, a view which 'reflected the lingering hope of a committed socialist.'

In a 1920 by-election Cooke was elected a Sydenham ward representative to the Christchurch City Council. There he 'maintained his distrust of money-lenders and landowners'; only reluctantly did he accept that the council should borrow money so that the unemployed might undertake public works within the metropolis. In 1925 Cooke's leader, the Rev. James Kendrick Archer, became the city's first Labour mayor. From 1927-29 Cooke chaired the Works Committee.

It was known that, for a decade, Cooke suffered from diabetes; it was not known that he had prostate cancer. In June 1930 he was admitted to Lewisham Hospital. His death, on 26 June 'came as a real shock to his colleagues.' He was survived by his wife and four sons, of whom one was in Christchurch, another in the Waikato and two, including the turbulent Harry, in New South Wales.

On 29 June more than one hundred cars left Trades Hall for Cooke's funeral. A journalist noted the number of cyclists and pedestrians who made their way to the cemetery and estimated that the crowd about the grave numbered about 2000. Cooke was, at his request, buried without a formal service. Addresses were given by E. J. Howard and Peter Fraser, now Members of Parliament, Mayor Archer and trade union activist John Alexander McCullough.

Fellow councillors paid tribute to Fred Cooke. Annie Fraer said that he had 'helped her to understand the business procedures of the council' and that 'his 'unfailing courtesy and sincerity had ...given her a higher opinion of public life.'

Ernest Andrews thought that, though Cooke was 'extreme in some of his views', there was no malice in his nature. 'We had our arguments and differences in politics but ... he was just as friendly afterwards as if nothing had happened.'

Dan Sullivan commented that Cooke had fought hard to slay the dragon of man's inhumanity to man and that his memory would be kept green among the workers 'for he was honoured and respected as few others.'

J. K. Archer said:

... His death is a great personal loss and, to the Labour movement through out New Zealand it is an incalculable one. Never in my career have I known a whiter man than Freddie Cooke .... Not for one single moment would he sacrifice his convictions and, however severely he might be punished in the conflicts of political life, he always came up smiling. He was the stuff of which martyrs are made .... He had far more capacity than most people gave him credit for .... The idea of his being sent to gaol as a law-breaker is as ludicrous as the imprisonment of Bunyan or Mazzini ....

The *Christchurch times* obituary stated that Cooke was 'one of the best known members of the Labour Party in Christchurch.'

He was sincere in his views and ... held in the highest regard by many ... political opponents. His honesty of purpose and integrity in public life were never questioned. An example of the high regard in which he was held by those who differed from him politically occurred ... when he left on a trip to England. A large sum was given to him to help make his trip more enjoyable and a good proportion of this amount was subscribed by citizens who held widely different view on political matters from those held by Mr. Cooke.

The Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners asked the council to change the name of the three hectare Strickland Street reserve known as Smarts Pond to

Bradford Park after Cooke's long-time dwelling-place in England. This was agreed to. A nearby street was given the name Cooke Street.

Cooke bequeathed 80 pounds to re-establish the New Zealand Socialist Party as a constituent of the Labour Party. His gravestone has a verse which shows his world view and what he would like to have achieved:

Ah, love, should you and I with fate conspire  
to grasp this sorry scheme of things entire, would not we shatter it to bits and  
then  
remould it nearer to the heart's desire?

**Area 2**  
**Row B**  
**No. 1154**  
**Wuzerah and Kulloo**

Wuzerah and Kulloo were among Sir John Cracroft Wilson's Indian servants.

Wuzerah had three sons, Mero, Noah and Rabbi, and, in later life, dwelt in a small cottage near the corner of Cashmere and Valley roads. Although he had a team of bullocks, he invariably used the same two, 'Baldy' and 'Smuggler', when, once a month, he visited Christchurch for provisions. When asked why he always brought the same pair, Wuzerah would, in proud manner and his best English, reply: "They quick go run it". He died on 30 April 1902. The burial book states that Wuzerah was a 'pensioner', meaning that the family of his old employer provided him with an income during his retirement. One source giving his age as 85. The burial book gives his age as '80 to 100'.

Life-long bachelor Kulloo emigrated with Sir John Cracroft Wilson in 1854 and, ever after, claimed that, in his native home, he had been a hangman. When in merry mood at the Junction Hotel, Halswell, he entertained his audience by 'demonstrating the happenings at these gruesome events'. Eventually 'incapacitated from work', he became a 'pensioner of the Cashmere estate.' For a year his former employers put him up in the plush Strathmore Hospital in Ferry Road, after which he was cared for in private lodgings at Office Road, St. Albans. He died aged 'about 76' on 21 August 1902. He was 'late of Cashmere Estate and formerly of North-West Province.'

Vandals wrecked the servants' memorial. In 1985 broken pieces were found and the Cracroft Community Centre went through the process required so that it might restore the grave of people with whom it had no blood link. Descendants of the servants were asked to help; nobody turned up. The centre joined together scattered pieces of marble and re-leaded some of the letter grooves to make a satisfactory gravestone. The stone was then set in a thick layer of concrete. The wording on the stone states that it was erected to the memory of Wuzerah and Kulloo, 'natives of India [and] for many years faithful servants of the late Sir John Cracroft Wilson'.

Another Indian servant was Henry Suraj Bullie or Sunbeam, son of Mary Ann Bullie and Henry Bullie, a soldier. Born about 1834, he emigrated on the *Akbar* but, by 1870, had ceased to work for 'the Nabob'. He went to Nelson and worked for Sir David Monro who took his photograph. The photo shows a dark-skinned dapper man with bow tie, cane, white shoes and hair parted in the middle. It was in Nelson that Henry became known as 'Sunbeam'.

In Wellington, under the surname 'Sunbeam' and with the occupation of 'gentleman's valet', Henry married Elizabeth Stevenson. Unknown to Henry, Elizabeth was a bigamist, being already married to Henry Cunningham. A 10 January 1888 *Wellington post* advertisement has Elizabeth's application for an order against Henry Cunningham as she was ill. An 1888 *New Zealand police gazette* entry has the police seeking Henry Cunningham so that he might maintain his children by Elizabeth.

When Henry Sunbeam-Bullie married again, there is a reference to the bigamous union and to Elizabeth having died 'about five years ago'.

After Elizabeth's death, Henry Bullie returned to Sydenham, working as a chimney sweep and gardener. He met Harriet Townsend, general servant of Little Queen Street, who had been born at Christchurch on 21 April 1869. Harriet already had two children, Henry and Frederick Charles. Frederick went under the name 'Townsend'. Although blond and clearly not of Indian extraction, Henry went under the name 'Sunbeam'. Bullie cheerfully accepted him as his child. Both boys were baptized on 3 October 1894. the minister later added a note to Henry's baptismal record: "The father of the child is Henry Suraj Bullie whom I married ... to the mother".

On 9 January 1895, at St. Saviour's, Sydenham, Henry, claiming to be 44 but, in fact, about 60, married Mary Townsend, 25. The couple lived at 139 Southampton Street.

Their children included Minnie Elizabeth who was born on 26 February 1896 and died in 1897; William Leslie, who was born in 1898 and died at seven months; and John (born 10 December 1899 and died in 1961).

In Sydenham Park, on an evening in August 1904, Frank Cozelett was felling a pine tree which was three feet six inches in diameter and over six feet high. Henry, called 'Sunbeam' and described as an Indian of about 70, was, with a son, gathering the chips. The tree began to shift, the woodsman yelled: "Look out" but Henry did not move. Branches struck him, he was severely crushed in the body and sustained a severe cut across the abdomen. His flesh was badly torn and the severity of the trauma was increased by the entrance of a quantity of foul matter. Henry was removed to the Christchurch Public Hospital where he died. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of 'accidental death'.

Henry's descendants, who describe him as originally a 'Calcutta Free Schoolboy', all use the surname 'Sunbeam'. In Urdu and Hindi 'suraj' means 'sun' but is used as a forename, not a surname.

**Row C**  
**No. 1256**  
**Muir**

Born in Scotland about 1867, John Edward – Jack - Muir trained as a gardener at the Earl of Hamilton's Lanarkshire estate. At 21 he emigrated to Australia, coming to Christchurch, with his wife, Lily, in 1904. He laid out the grounds of 'Wonderland', the amusement section of the 1906-07 International Exhibition.

On the west side of Colombo Street, in the Sydenham shopping centre, Jack Muir had a garden seed and florist's shop. In 1918 he moved to a shop on the east side of Colombo Street virtually opposite his previous premises.

On his arrival in Christchurch Muir had bought two acres in Duncan Street, Spreydon and started a small nursery. In 1928 he bought 30 acres in Halswell, producing seed potatoes, the seed of garden peas and, in glasshouses, grew tomatoes

Active into old age, Jack Muir was making purchases at flower auctions when beyond 80 years of age. Lily Muir, 70, died on 26 April 1947, Jack dying on 10 February 1950. Their son, Robert, took over management of the business and died suddenly, aged 63, on 19 December 1970.

When the Muir Estate was subdivided by Christchurch Suburban Estates, part of the property was offered to the council as a reserve. Efforts were made in 1973-74 and 1979 to save the 10-room wooden homestead for a community centre but to no avail. In 1983 the park was declared a passive recreation area with a playground for small children only.

**Area 3**  
**Row D**  
**No. 1643**  
**Forward**

In 1927 William Burgess, a taxi driver who was married and had two children, kept company with but concealed his marital state from two other young women.

One woman, Emily Forward, 21, fell pregnant. Her mother and brother, who lived in Palmers Road, thought that she was about to be married. Emily would not go to live with them so Burgess deposited her in a comfortable but plainly furnished bach at 51 Bowhill Road, providing her with a few shillings a week with which to buy food. The owner of the property was John Larking Scarvell, the land agent Ernest Alexander Moore Leaver.

Emily constantly asked Burgess to marry her and he, just as constantly, evaded the question. Eventually, after many arguments on the matter, Emily told Burgess that she did not want to see him again. He took her at her word and stopped paying the rent. On 23 March Emily saw Mrs. Irene Passmore, her neighbour and, supposedly, her 'bosom friend' for the last time. The girl said plaintively: "I cannot face the world alone. I would be better dead". Irene noted that there was no food in the house.

The men working next door at the Inter-City Motor Bus Company did not notice anything. Irene did not visit; Emily's family did not worry.

Three months later Irene Passmore went up the narrow pathway to the bach. It was overgrown with lupins and weeds. Cobwebs grew thickly on the door. The blinds were drawn. Inside Irene found Emily's body, in an advanced state of decomposition, sitting on a chair, her head near a tube which led from a gas oven.

*New Zealand truth* waxed lyrical. Initially its headlines read:

Girl's mysterious death in lonely seaside bach:

Emily Forward's love tragedy:

Body found sitting in chair three months after she met unknown fate:

And moved on to:

Man with a heart no woman's tears could melt:  
Left sweetheart to her fate:  
Coroner's scathing comments provide sensational climax to inquest on  
Brighton bach tragedy:  
Callous conduct of Emily Forward's lover:

At the beginning of the case *Truth* stated that:

Emily knew romance with all its sweetness and with all its bitterness. The cup of joy was dashed from her lips. The promised marriage on which, for a time, she dwelt with thoughts of pride and pleasure, were a mirage .... Her portion was disillusionment, despair and a lonely death.

At the inquest Burgess 'faced the rigours of a police examination which would have crushed the average man'. At times there was 'an enigmatic smile on his lips' as he answered questions 'glibly and without a tremor'.

*Truth* described the policeman's questioning:

As she was so intent on returning to the bach ... Burgess took her to Cashel Street and put her on the tram.  
She told him she had no money and he gave her two shillings.  
... That night she told me she did not wish to see me again as she was finished with me.  
...Did you go back to Brighton to see her at any time after that? No.  
Well, you knew the condition she was in. You knew she had no money. Did it not occur to you to see how she was getting on? No, she told me that she did not wish to see me again and that she would get along as best she could.  
And you took her at her word? Yes.  
Well, did it never occur to you to go down and see how she was getting on for food? No.

Burgess's lawyer, Sargent, objected to the way his client's immoral and uncaring ways were brought into the open. As *Truth* put it:

Sargent ... reached the climax of his patience: Yes ... and this young woman was going out with other men ... and was, at one time, attending the hospital for a certain complaint:

To which the coroner, Mr. Mosley, replied: 'But she recovered some time before all this arose .... I don't think that should be pursued.

The coroner commented: 'During my somewhat lengthy experience of the weakness of human nature, I have seldom met with a case of such indifference as has been revealed ... this morning'. And, with regard to the third lady in Burgess's life, he said: 'The other girl will no doubt read the account of this inquiry ... and, if she is fool enough to continue in a certain course of action, that is her own funeral'.

*Truth* wrote:

Burgess, from his seat in the body of the court, heard the strictures of the coroner unmoved for all the signs he gave that he was, in any way, affected by the whiplash of official censure.

After the coroner had brought in a verdict of suicide, Burgess left the court. *Truth* concluded:

For a few moments counsel and client stood in consultation outside, then, with brisk and jaunty step, the man whom the coroner had branded in such scathing terms passed ... into the bustle of the city's crowded streets.

The gravestone refers to Emily Martha Forward, 1907-1928, and her father, Francis Mauger Forward, 1868-1935.

**Row I**  
**No. 1866**  
**Adams**

Francis Luke, son of the potter Luke Adams, worked in the family business, outlived his wife, Ellen Fanny, who died, at 72, on 3 July 1942, and his sons, Frank and Ted. When very old, he dwelt with his daughter, Alice Crotty, in Akaroa though he continued to own a property at 115 Jerrold Street. On his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, in April 1968, he stated that, during his life, he had spent only nine days in hospital. Six months later he made a trip to Christchurch to vote in the local body elections. On 14 October 1968, he died at Alice's home. Of his siblings only his sister, Annie, survived him.

**Row Q**  
**No. 2326**  
**Soman**

On 27 December 1909 there was committed to Sunnyside Mental Hospital Patience Eva May, daughter of Ramchurn and Catherine Soman. She died there, aged 78, on 2 June 1962.

**Row R**  
**No. 2440**  
**Cargeeg**

Cargeeg is a Cornish surname. William Cargeeg, a miner, and his wife, Selina Trembath, dwelt at Pendeen on the north coast of West Cornwall, half-way between Land's End and St. Ives. Famed for servicing copper and tin mines, Pendeen saw these industries decline. Many of its sons and daughters, the Cargeegs among them, sought their livelihood overseas.

The Cargeegs dwelt in Oamaru where their son, Richard, was born in 1876; the local registrar recorded the surname as Cargeig. In 1882 Oamaru labourer William Cargeeg owned land worth 390 pounds. Later, in Christchurch, he was described as a 'settler'. On 21 October 1891, at the family home in Kilmore Street, the couple's daughter, Selina, married a mercantile clerk, Thomas Lisle.

Richard Cargeeg married Ellen Olds at Christchurch and took her to live at 354 Estuary Road, South Brighton. Their home, 'Pendeen', was on the west side of Estuary Road, south of Halsey Street. Cargeeg dressed well and always owned a late model car. When he made suggestions to the New Brighton Borough Council – as he did in October 1920 – the local body acknowledged him as 'a South Brighton pioneer', and took note of his ideas. His working class neighbours thought him the wealthy man of the district.

Richard Cargeeg was manager of the Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Company. Perhaps because he had a sedentary occupation, this strong stocky man revelled in the outdoor work which awaited him at home, cleared the property of lupin and had a beautiful garden surrounded by a macrocarpa hedge. His house, two storeys high, had a view over the sea and mountains. The nearby kink in the Avon was known as 'Cargeeg's Bend'. About 1912 Cargeeg looked to the south of his property, the isolated undeveloped Spit, at the end of which was a naval reserve, originally intended for lighthouse purposes. There two bodies were at work. One, the South New Brighton Land Company, was made up of a host of small shareholders. The other, the Southshore Syndicate, consisted, in the main, of substantial businessmen. The land company and syndicate purchased and sold land. Part of the purchase money was to be spent on the erection of a bridge from the Spit across the Estuary to Shag Rock.

'Pendeen', stretching from the beach to the Estuary, denied the bridge builders easy access to their grounds. At one stage, to the horror of the New Brighton Borough Council, the Southshore Syndicate attempted to use the Public Works Act to take part of Cargeeg's property. Being unsuccessful, it ran an access roads along the river bed. This could be used only when the tide was low. Eventually Cargeeg agreed to sell land and tracks were put through to what is now Southshore.

Although a track – the future Rockinghorse Road - was hacked out of the wilderness, there was little further progress in Richard Cargeeg's lifetime. The early owners of the land derived little from it. One disillusioned ratepayer wrote to the New Brighton Borough Council:

Cheque herewith for two pounds two shillings for enclosed rates. In regard to these rates, I understand the section is somewhere in the sandhills to the south of the settlement but, when I have been to Christchurch, I have never been able to find it. As far as I know, there are no roads near it, no lighting except by the moon and the stars, no library within 10 miles, nor hospital. It is hard to know why we pay rates. Can you tell me why this money is charged against this unfortunate bleak barren bit of sandhill?

Not till about 1950 was public money was expended in the forming and metalling of Rockinghorse Road.

Richard Cargeeg retired in 1924. Within a few years he was experiencing eye trouble, suffering from insomnia and becoming mentally unstable. In November 1931 he made a will, leaving his property to his wife (the estate was to be valued at 'under ... 3000 pounds'). Then, after trying to jump in front of an electric tram at the Christchurch railway station, he was committed to Sunnyside Mental Hospital.

At the beginning of March 1932 Sunnyside's Superintendent, Dr. Alexander McKillop, gave permission for Cargeeg to be released from the institution for the day. He later stated that permission was granted so that Cargeeg could attend a cricket match and that he had no history of misusing firearms. Most importantly, the outing was approved 'on the condition that he was ... accompanied by a male friend or relative. Had this condition been adhered to, he would have been quite alright'.

However, Ellen Cargeeg picked up her husband and brought him home. Richard smuggled his gun into scrub to the south of the house and shot himself in the chest. When discovered, he said that he did not want his wife to bear the stigma of having her husband in an asylum. A doctor moved Cargeeg to Christchurch Hospital where he died on 2 March 1932.

The coroner's inquest stated that Richard died of 'shock and haemorrhage resulting from a gunshot wound self-inflicted whilst in a depressed state of mind.' The gravestone records that, at his death, Richard Cargeeg was 55 years old. Ellen Cargeeg, 92, died on 12 December 1972.

**Area 4**  
**Row C**  
**No. 2770**  
**Adams**

Luke Adams was born at Hampshire, England, on 21 May 1838. On 15 July 1860, at Newchurch, Isle of Wight, he married Sarah Jane Churcher. They had three sons and a daughter, Sarah dying in childbirth in 1870.

Mary Annie Stow was born at West Lavington, Wiltshire, on 7 December 1845. She married Luke Adams on 29 May 1871. They had four daughters and four sons. Mary's sister, Jane – or Jinny – Stow, who was born on 2 October 1852, was to live much of her life with Luke, Mary and their children.

Extensive pottery factories stood near large population centres and supplied a diverse range of wares to English cities and a discerning and well-established overseas market. Employees were trained in only one field of manufacture.

Luke Adams came not from this tradition but, rather, worked as a potter in the village of Fareham, Hampshire, was familiar with the overall production techniques of the clay trade and supplied the local population with inexpensive utilitarian articles. This background was invaluable when it came to establish a colonial pottery.

In 1872 William Neighbours, owner of a Nursery Road brickworks, arrived in England to purchase new machinery. Concerned that the closing of Hampshire potteries might end his employment and worried that a lung condition might lead kill him, Adams took note of Neighbours' visit from a warmer climate. Neighbours agreed to employ Adams should he and his family emigrate.

The Adams family emigrated on the *Punjaub*. The voyage, which lasted 16 weeks, claimed 40 lives, including that of one of the Adams daughters. The vessel arrived in Lyttelton in September 1873. For two years, Luke worked for Neighbours. However, the job provided little outlet for Adams' dexterity on the potter's wheel and he left to work with Messrs. Austin and Kirk in their Farnley Brick and Tile Works.

When Austin and Kirk decided to restrict their pottery-making section, Adams purchased the plant and moulds which were no longer required at the Farnley factory. In 1881 he rented a Carlyle Street property. When the two eldest sons, William and Albert, played truant from school, they were promptly brought into the fledgling business. Other sons, Francis Luke, Percival and H. R. (Bert) later joined them.

With his sons' assistance, Adams built a kiln and established, at Carlyle Street, the Sydenham Pottery Works. When, a year later the landlord summarily sold the property, Adams determined to carry on. Neighbours supplied his old employee with bricks and a now more worldly-wise Luke Adams took a 21 year lease on – and eventually purchased – a property at 383-5 Colombo Street. The family lived over the shop which was already there and built a new kiln.

Luke Adams produced ornamental and domestic items which the public found practical and inexpensive – bread pans, butter jars, cream crocks, teapots and jugs. Skilled at assessing the market, the firm satisfied much of the domestic demand for common flowerpots. The Adams family supplied Haywood Brothers' pickles with their demi-johns and Sharpe Brothers with ginger beer bottles. In 1893 Percival Adams decided to experiment with a brick-pressing machine. He constructed a small-scale working model and, by accident, created the orange-red 'Kiddibricks' which, for almost 80 years, were sought by local children.

The clay was prepared in a brick-lined trough in the ground round which a large stone of some three hundred-weight was dragged by a hack/Clydesdale cross. The clay slip was then sieved and run off into open pits to allow the water to evaporate. Later a slip-kiln was added to speed the process.

Luke Adams worked from 8 a.m. till 10 p.m. and, after tea, laboured by candlelight. He maintained this regime almost every day of the week until shortly before his death, at home, on 24 February 1918.

When glass became a cheap alternative to pottery for household containers, the future of the pottery looked bleak. However, R. T. Daly got the firm to mould cones for electric stoves and jug bodies. In 1931, the enterprise began to provide ceramic parts for Scotts, the firm which manufactured Atlas stoves. A gas fired kiln suited for firing electrical products was imported and first lit by Mary Annie Adams on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, 7 December 1935. She dwelt at the family home for 56 years, dying on 21 March 1936. Six sons and four daughters survived her.

Luke Adams Ltd., was registered on 6 February 1939 with youngest son, H. R. (Bert) being managing director. More land was bought in 1953, giving access to three streets and providing access for a clay storage yard.

The Adams family was skilled at public relations. Luke Adams had boasted of 'undertaking all classes of pottery work and supplying customers all over the dominion'; and had won medals and prizes at exhibitions in Christchurch (1882); Wellington (1885); the Indian and Colonial Exhibition in London (1886); and Melbourne (1888). People were encouraged to visit the shop and during local industrial exhibitions, Luke was seen working at the potter's wheel. Later a daughter, Mary Ann or Annie (who had been born on 10 August 1875) ran the shop and was company secretary, her aunt, Jane Stow, assisting. Craft pottery was now popular. Annie entertained enthusiasts who drank tea brewed in Luke Adams' teapots, bought 'cottagey' teapots and sought precious knowledge.

Bert Adams retired in 1965, the business was sold to Crown Lynn potteries and the shop demolished. The kilns cooled finally in September 1975. Jane Stow and MaryAnn Adams had died on 8 February 1945 and 12 May 1969 respectively.

Although eventually the public face of Luke Adams Ltd., Annie Adams had made her name as a schoolteacher. She started primary school at Opawa and then, from 1883-89, was at Sydenham School. In 1889 she gained a scholarship to Christchurch Girls'

High School, going on to Normal School, the teacher training institution of the day. She was a probationer at Sydenham from 1891-93 and pupil teacher from 1893-97.

Annie worked at Le Bons Bay, Little Akaloa and Kaikoura. While she was on Banks Peninsula in 1899, an inspector made reference to the fact that parents would not send their children to school and used them as a cheap labour force. The 'teacher [was] well trained, capable and industrious and, with reasonably good attendance, educational results would be excellent.'

Assistant infant mistress at Sydenham from 1901-11, Annie was subsequently infant mistress at Somerfield, Spreydon and Waltham. She adorned her room with nursery rhyme pictures, was methodical and loved her work with young children. Inspectors' comments included: 'Miss Adams is to be commended for the industry and energy she devotes to the discharge of her duties' and 'control kind and sympathetic. Children appear bright and happy'.

After 41 years, Annie retired. The Waltham School committee chairman stated that she had 'helped to build the traditions not only of a particular school but of the teaching profession as a whole.'

Mrs. Luke Adams was a foundation member of the congregation of the Sydenham Anglican church. For nearly 30 years she belonged to the local branch of the Mothers' Union and was in charge of the produce stall at the annual fair. Annie emulated her mother, working for St. Saviour's from 1882 until her death and being superintendent of the Sunday School for 45 years, resigning in 1949.

Kate Topping, eldest daughter of Luke and Mary Annie Adams, was born on 15 April 1861. She lived at Southbridge and died on 29 January 1947. A descendant of the Adams family, Roger, only son of John and Muriel O'Loughlin was born at Greymouth in 1933 and died there on 1 January 1939.

**Row E**  
**No. 2890**  
**Rogerson**

Mr. Rogerson is sometimes called William Henry, sometimes Henry William. As his gravestone refers to him as William Henry, we will, generally, use this version. Born in London in 1833, Rogerson was the son of William Rogerson, a paint stainer, and Dinah Rogerson nee Brown. William Henry was, by occupation, a painter. The name of the vessel which brought him to New Zealand is not known.

In 1855, in York, Caroline Amelia Hunton was born to Mary Leland Hunton nee Wright and her husband, Francis Hunton, a schoolmaster. She emigrated to Canterbury on the ship *Waikato* in 1877.

In the mid 1880s William Henry Rogerson, a widower, and Caroline Hunton entered into a de facto relationship. As such liaisons were unacceptable in Victorian society, Caroline passed herself off as Mrs. Rogerson.

Some of the children born to the couple were baptized at the Cambridge Terrace Methodist church: Elizabeth (22 April 1888); George Henry (28 August 1890); Frederick (5 September 1892); and Francis James (20 September 1896). The minister wrote up each entry as though the child was the offspring of a married couple.

The Rogersons' poverty was shown by the fact that their cottage had not floorboards but a dirt floor. Yet Caroline found money for alcohol and could be seen weaving along the footpath with the feather in her hat hanging at a rakish angle. A child asked her stern mother: "What's wrong with her?" The mother snapped: "She's drunk."

Perhaps St. Luke's Anglican church vicar W. W. Sedgwick discovered that the couple were living in sin. Perhaps, when the children reached marriageable age, the parents thought it appropriate to regularize their union. Perhaps the children coerced their parents into getting married. Whatever the case, on 11 August 1910, at St. Luke's, Sedgwick officiated at the wedding of 'Henry William Rogerson', 77, and Caroline Amelia Hunton, 54. Perhaps in order to prevent last minute backsliding, Sedgwick's relatives, Margarita Helen and Dorothy Sedgwick, acted as witnesses. A son, Frederick, 25, married Bertha Ivy Stevens, at St. Luke's, on 22 August 1917.

On 8 December 1919 St. Luke's vicar F. N. Taylor took the funeral service of W. H. Rogerson, 86, of 315 Armagh Street. Caroline died at the Jubilee Home on 11 May 1936. Her children were Mrs. E. J. Chapman, Addington; Mrs. J. Archer, Opawa; Mr. G. H. Rogerson, Burwood; Mr. F. Rogerson, St. Albans; Mrs. W. N. Smith and Mr. F. J. Rogerson, Khandallah. Caroline's death notice concluded: 'No mourning. Private interment. Peace, perfect peace.'

**Row G**  
**No. 2998**  
**Allison**

Charles Allison was born at Mansfield, Nottingham, on 29 June 1845, the son of Charles and Marianne Allison. The family emigrated on the *Isabella Hercus* in 1855, arriving in Lyttelton at the beginning of the following year.

Charles senior dwelt at 'Mansfield House' opposite St. Luke's church, was secretary to building societies and a founder of the Christchurch Workingmen's Club. On 21 July 1892, a very wet day, he sat in front of the fire in the reading room of the working men's club and fell asleep, 'a sleep from which he never awoke'.

Charles junior trained under a building contractor. Prior to the completion of the Lyttelton-Christchurch railway tunnel in 1867, he worked in the Bank of New Zealand, bringing bullion over the Bridle Path by packhorse. He and the manager had regular target practice behind the bank premises, and Allison's reputation with a gun ensured that the money always arrived safely. Like many contemporaries, Charles was a Volunteer, holding commissions in the No. 1 Company of the Canterbury Rifle volunteers and the E. Battery of Artillery. He won many trophies as a rifle shot.

On 2 June 1868, at St. Luke's, the Rev. E. A. Lingard officiated at the wedding of Charles Allison, full age, bachelor, at that time a carpenter, and Jane Howard, minor,

a spinster. The couple set up house in Pound Road, Charles becoming the Christchurch City Council pound keeper. Recommendations from two worthy locals and a premium of 50 pounds were sought before Charles got the job which paid four shillings a day. Stray animals had to be collected, checked and fed.

Residents were dissatisfied with the want of roads in the area south of the South Belt (Moorhouse Avenue). As well 'the drainage of the district was in a deplorable condition.'

... Selwyn Street, Windmill Road [Antigua Street], Montreal Street, Colombo Street and the locality near the gasworks were the points most subject to floods, and it was not at all uncommon for residents in these localities to be either imprisoned in their houses by the floods or swamped out altogether.

When a deputation tried to persuade road board members to spend money in Sydenham, one member stated that if people were foolish enough to settle there, they must put up with inconveniences. Charles Allison, chairman of the Colombo Road school committee, promptly sent circulars throughout the area. On 9 August 1876, in the schoolroom, he opposed amalgamation with Christchurch City which had failed to form its outlying roads. At a 5 September meeting he presented statistics showing that the population of the district was big enough and the rateable value of the land sufficient to warrant the establishment of a borough. Allison suggested the name 'Sydenham' for the local body and this was adopted. 'The Sydenham', Charles Prince's china shop and 'commercial academy' in Colombo Road, took its name from a South London suburb.

The city council and newspapers were hostile and, only after two petitions to government, was the incorporation of the borough gazetted on 20 September 1877. On 18 October another public meeting heard the views of those who were standing for the council. The meeting passed a resolution that, were it not for the drive and perseverance of Charles Allison, the borough would never have been formed.

On 1 September 1879 Allison became Sydenham's Town Clerk and Surveyor, holding these positions till the borough amalgamated with Christchurch in 1903. In one of its last acts the borough council noted that: 'The name of Charles Allison is so associated with the history of the borough that it is almost impossible to record a fact that does not necessitate a reference to him'.

While Town Clerk, Allison bought and rented property. His willingness to accept hard-up stories meant that the rents he collected were low. When circumstances forced him to sell a house, the new landlord obtained 14 shillings a week where Charles had been content with eight.

Although of modest means, Allison declined the city council's offer of employment in a subordinate position. Instead he established himself at 89 Colombo Street as 'architect and civil engineer, valuator, estate and fire assurance agent [and] licensed land broker under the Land Transfer Acts'. He stated that works would be 'efficiently planned and supervised at lowest rates'. Structures which Allison designed included a house at New Brighton, cottages in Colombo Street, shops at Rangiora and the school

at Southbridge. Profits were small and, from time to time, Allison was forced to sell rental houses. Allison stood for Parliament. On the subject of prohibition, he argued that the mass closure of hotels would cause back-yard whisky stills to spring up. However, he thought that hotels should be like Japanese tea houses rather than booze-barns. When expounding this view on the hustings, he alienated everybody and garnered few votes.

Allison was a member of the Port Christchurch League which wanted to establish Port Christchurch on the Avon-Heathcote Estuary and have small craft carry goods to the city along a canal where Linwood Avenue is situated. He sat on the Christchurch Technical College Board of Governors, Lyttelton Harbour Board and the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board. He became a Christchurch City councillor and, in 1907, defeated the incumbent Mayor, George Payling.

Charles' years in office saw the 1909 visit by Will Crookes, the man who spent part of his childhood in a workhouse and became Labour Mayor of Poplar and an M.P. The Tory press had treated his arrival at Westminster as the coming of the revolution. Crookes had 'bushy eyebrows, blue eyes and a fine gift of oratory' which immediately won his audience.

Another visitor, Lord Kitchener, came to advise the government on defence matters. The mayor and military leader drove together down Manchester Street. When asked what he thought of the great soldier, Allison replied: "A machine." Kitchener's visit signalled the end of the Volunteer movement, of which Allison had been a member.

In November 1910 there arrived an expedition which, two years later, was to have a tragic outcome, that of Captain Robert Falcon Scott.

In 1911 Dr. Thacker and T. E. Taylor stood against Allison. Taylor triumphed, Allison's old antagonist, the *Press*, thinking his defeat 'the usual penalty of those who remain in office a certain length of time.' Charles installed his colourful successor and, with the rest of Christchurch, was shocked at his death three months later.

For many years the Allison family lived at 17 Gladstone (now 47 Wordsworth) Street. Of their six sons and four daughters, all but one daughter married. On 2 June 1918 they returned for their parents' 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Jane made the cake and, after the speeches and reminiscences, was given a number of sovereigns which were soon to disappear from everyday currency. Some years later she gave one to each grandchild as a keepsake.

Until the end of his life, Charles Allison was busy in the service of others, whether cycling across Christchurch to bring a midwife to a neighbour, or giving a donation he could ill afford to a deserving charity. His thick fine hair had turned a silvery white, but he still retained his fine voice, his erect soldierly walk and the kindly twinkle in his blue eyes .... It became a struggle for Charles to climb the stairs and the old drawing-room was turned into a bedroom. For the last six months he entertained his visitors there, still alert in mind, though weaker in body. The end was to come on the afternoon of 8 April 1920. Jane came in with the afternoon tea and found him peacefully sleeping. She lowered the blinds, just as his daughter arrived with a gift of

white flowers from a friend. The clock had stopped and Charles Allison's life was ended.

Charles Allison died of 'myocardial degeneration' on 8 April 1920.

Jane Allison, a practical woman, made the nightgown in which she was to be buried, boiled it to keep it a good colour and died on 23 July 1926. The Allison's lie beneath a granite cross.

An Allison daughter, Hilda Eiby, wrote Charles' and Jane's biography, *Heart and hand*. Hilda's son, George, an expert on earthquakes, wrote extensively on the subject.

**Row K**  
**No. 3197**  
**Hitchings**

Mr. and Mrs. Hitchings were of humble London origins. Frank was born at Clerkenwell, was functionally illiterate and worked as a bricklayer and chimney sweep. In Christchurch he was to confess to Jane Allison: "Yes, Mrs. Hallison, we har the people wot makes a mess". Margaret Williams, who was born in the Old Kent Road, could read books of some complexity. Frank and Margaret married, at Bexley in 1864.

Frank and Margaret emigrated to Canterbury with three children – Frank, 4, Sarah, 2, and Emma, two months. The total cost of the family's passage was 45 pounds. Frank paid 18 pounds in cash and presented promissory notes worth 15 pounds. Thus the present cost to the provincial government was 27 pounds and the ultimate cost 12 pounds. Frank claimed to be a farm labourer, perhaps because it was known that there was a constant demand for people with this occupation; bricklayers and chimneysweeps might have been less in demand.

On 1 October 1869 the family sailed on the *Celaeno*, arriving in Lyttelton on 16 January 1870. The *Celaeno* was one of the last vessels which the provincial government sent to New Zealand, central Government taking charge of immigration later that year. During the voyage, Frank watched the ship's officers 'taking the sun' daily and a kind-hearted captain instructed him in the basics of astronomy. In Christchurch Hitchings retained his interest in the subject. The genteel considered him the ideal of what the working class man should be. 'By no means a rich man' and without desire for personal gain, he nevertheless struggled to improve his academic knowledge. One admirer wrote:

There are many men ... interested in astronomy but ... few who would allow their enthusiasm to carry them into an expenditure of hundreds of pounds in order to buy telescopes and fit out in their own backyards well-equipped observatories for their private study of the heavens. This, however, is precisely what has been done by a New Zealander, Mr. F. Hitchings, who resides in Christchurch ....

The energy of a man who persists in his efforts to be an astronomer, despite the numberless obstacles in his way, lack of education being the least of them, is most praiseworthy

In his spare time Hitchings built his observatory behind a row of brick sheds enclosing a section of the garden in the rear of his house. The observatory was 12 feet in diameter and 20 feet in height to the dome. The lower portion was built of wood and sheathed with rubber felting as a protection against the weather, An ingenious pulley contrivance, worked by a small handle geared to a winding drum, enabled the dome to be turned to right or left as required.

The telescope, the work of Cooke and Sons of York, had a clear aperture of six inches and a focal distance of nine feet. It was a larger instrument than that at Canterbury College which had an aperture of five inches and a focal length of six feet. Hitchings made a small neat camera, together with reflectors and other attachments, for photographing the moon, stars and sun. Interested in the sun's surface, he recorded the position of sunspots and sent his data to the British Astronomical Association.

Outside the observatory, and mounted on a revolving carriage with a number of screw adjusters, stood a 9 inch reflector which, with the exception of the lenses, Hitchings himself created. This was a stand-by for observation work. When past 60, he took up photography and, in a small brick building there was housed Hitchings' photographic dark room. Microphotography and the making of lantern slides were other interests of his later career.

When a comet appeared over Christchurch, Hitchings mounted his telescope in Cathedral Square and allowed the public to use it. In 1910 he and a son, Alfred, took a refractor with a 3 ½ inch aperture and a portable mounting to Tasmania to observe an eclipse of the sun. Alas, cloudy weather meant that he was not able to use it to advantage. Hitchings belonged to the Royal Astronomical Society, Canterbury Philosophical Institute and Canterbury Microscopical Society. He lectured, taught schoolchildren and befriended Professor A. W. Bickerton whose theory of 'partial impact' attempted to explain the birth of worlds.

A wit called Hitchings 'the astronomical chimney sweep'. A second said that he swept chimneys by day and the heavens by night, and a third that, by day he erected buildings on planet Earth and, by night investigated 'mansions in the sky'.

Margaret Hitchings assisted Frank in his activities. While he was away working, she stacked bricks and mixed water ready for him. Frank collected books on astronomy and Margaret patiently read them to him.

When the Hitchings family arrived in Christchurch, they rented rooms in Montreal Street. In 1876 Frank built, on the corner of Wordsworth and Durham streets, Sydenham, Number 63, the first dwelling in what became a famous block of 'Coronation-Street-type' terraced houses, 'Blackheath'. Neither Frank nor Margaret knew that Blackheath, where they had started their family, was so named because it was the burial place of the victims of the Great Plague of 1665.

As the family continued to expand (eventually there were eight children), the brick-layer was forced to build and then move into the more substantial Number 69. Frank filled in the block with Numbers 65 and 67. In 1886 he built Nos. 71, 73 and 75 and, finally, 77, 79 and 81.

Bureaucracy is said to have dissuaded Hitchings from building more terrace houses. However, the locals' preference for their own tiny homes made it clear to Frank that there was scant profit in further English-style houses.

When complete 'Blackheath' was in two distinct sections with a broad, low archway spanning the lane between them; the front gardens were only a step wide and the back gardens likewise small.

Frank Hitchings was 'fairly heavily built', five feet 10 inches in height and had sandy hair. He retired when about 62 and occupied himself at the back of his home where, in addition to the observatory, there stood massive glasshouses which he had built and where he grew tomatoes and grapes. Frank died of diabetes, in his 78<sup>th</sup> year, on 22 September 1921 and Margaret, 84, on 8 December 1926. Their funerals took place at St. Saviour's. With his parents there is buried Alfred Hitchings who died, at 98, on 4 April 1975.

Several generations of the Hitchings family – and their tenants – dwelt in the properties. With a living room to one side of the entrance, a kitchen behind and bedrooms above, the dwellings were small but not poky. Also, they were warm. In 1965 Frank's grandson and namesake said of the houses: "They are sound as a bell today .... You never know there's a frost until you go outside in the morning. They must be all right for one tenant has been there for 35 years." At that stage the bricks had lasted 90 years and the iron roofing was still sound.

In 1965 architect John Hendry said that the complex had 'undeniable charm'. He found fault with the newer northern part with its higher stud, coarse bay windows, bold entrances and the detail which had been lavished on the 'first floor curved window heads, connecting sill courses and elaborate brick cornices'. He considered the older southern houses 'simpler and ... more successful, due no doubt to the larger uninterrupted wall spaces and lack of fuss'. On one subject Hendry was totally frank:

To set off the whole, a very busy, heavy and coarse fence of brick and iron, quite out of scale, has been used. It destroys the attempt of elegance in the main structure.

Frank Hitchings III commented: "I'm 55 now and, when I retire ... hope to reinstate them as near as to their original condition as I can." However, by the 1980s, nearby tiny wooden cottages on pocket-handkerchief sections had gone, the area was zoned industrial and 'Blackheath' a relic of past times. Gerald Cresswell, a developer, purchased the properties and, unlike others who demolished historic buildings and built anew on the sites, planned to retain the structures and convert the interiors for commercial and office use. The New Zealand Historic Places Trust and Christchurch Civic Trust supported him, the latter calling him as a 'very sympathetic developer' who deserved encouragement. The Christchurch City Council approved alterations

and the roof of the northern part was replaced, the back wall extended and new beams installed to give the building greater strength. Inside original features – kauri doors and mantels and room cornices - were, where possible, retained. The fence was demolished and landscaping carried out on the site's frontage.

In 1984 the first tenants moved in. The third and last stage of the project was opened in December 1991. Cresswell said that there were now 25 commercial units in the complex and that the happy, congenial atmosphere of the old building had meant that the development had always had a high tenancy level. Local M.P. Jim Anderton supported the preservation of Frank Hitchings' property as maintaining and extending a visual line that was part of the Sydenham area.

**Row N**  
**No. 3349-51**  
**Lorraine**

Born at Parnell, Auckland in 1872, Daniel Mahoney attended the district school. In youth he drove a baker's cart and then worked in a dentist's surgery. He toured Australia with a theatrical company and went to England in 1892.

Mahoney studied the profession of ballooning in hydrogen gas-filled balloons. After rising into the sky, he would release the gas so that it could flutter to earth. He would then jump from his balloon, making a descent by parachute. He showed 'the utmost daring, almost to foolhardiness ... an utter disregard of danger', and was particularly negligent in failing to equip his balloons with escape valves.

Mahoney made ascents around such London sites as Earl's Court, Kew Gardens and the Crystal Palace. He gave exhibitions at the re-opening of the Alexandra Palace, performed in the presence of the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) and twice made balloon crossings of the English Channel. A strong swimmer, he survived accidents in English rivers and the channel.

Mahoney had learned his craft under the guidance of one Captain Lorraine and, on returning to New Zealand in 1898, styled himself 'Captain Lorraine, the Prince of Parachutists'. Attached as a military aeronaut to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment, he was under orders to proceed to the Boer War once his homeland tour was complete.

Lorraine made ascents from the Auckland Domain and Ellerslie Racecourse. On 22 March 1899, at St. Paul's, Auckland, he married Frances Juriss.

In Wellington, on 4 October, Lorraine made ascents from the Basin Reserve. A breeze blew him south-east and he could not parachute back into the ground as he had intended. Abandoning his balloon above St. Mark's church, he parachuted to safety in the grounds of Wellington College.

A journalist described the balloonist as  
... a strong, well-built figure, clad in dark blue uniform .... There was not a trace of anxiety on the fine, clean-shaven face, and ...nothing of self-esteem or

bombast in the bearing of the man. A quieter or more modest gentleman it would be impossible to meet.

Another reporter said of Lorraine: 'Ballooning was his profession and he followed it with the modest bearing and cool courage which every Briton admires'.

In his wife's home town Lorraine made two ascents from Lancaster Park, one to a height of 12, 000 feet before parachuting into a ploughed field, 'burying his feet to the boot tops, and ... turning a complete somersault'. However, as the *Press* commented, 'the circumstances of such a performance ... make it impossible to draw an entrance fee from all spectators'. Many people did not pay to get into the park, preferring to watch freely from neighbouring streets. Thus, the mayor and others arranged for a third ascent at 4 p.m. on 2 November 1899. The cost of entry to the park would be modest - by ticket or silver coin. This was to be Lorraine's benefit performance and the captain hoped not only to make some money but also to better his record of 20, 000 feet.

The Christchurch Gas Company filled the 226 kilogram oiled-silk balloon, named 'the Empress', with 16, 000 cubic feet of gas and Lorraine climbed on the broad shoulders of Hercules, the strong man in the Fuller Vaudeville Company, to tie the parachute of gaily-coloured flimsy striped silk to the ring with wick-like twine. The captain did not have a safety valve on his balloon, saying that the expensive devise would be smashed every time a descent was made. He argued that the most important part of his craft was string that he used to tie his parachute to the ring halfway up the balloon. It had to be strong enough to hold the parachute in position and weak enough to break as soon as he jumped out of his swing to put his weight on the parachute instead of on the balloon. It was on the descending parachute that he did his famed trapeze act. Observers were concerned when the knot which Lorraine used was a loose granny knot.

Sandbags holding down the balloon were removed, 20 helpers clinging to the ropes. Lorraine, with his aneroid barometer to register the height of his record attempt, took his seat in the rope sling attached to the netting and his wife brought him the trapeze which hung from the parachute. Lorraine laid aside the blue coat which formed part of his uniform and 'looked last at his wife as she stood beside him within the circle of ropes ... There was more timidity and nervousness in her looks than in his.

"Hold steady", cried the captain as Mrs. Lorraine stepped aside. As soon as she was safely clear, he called: "Now then, gentlemen, let her go."

The Elite Band struck up 'Rule, Britannia' as the balloon bounded up clear of the crowd. There was a gasp as the parachute somehow broke free of the ring. There were calls for the captain to jump but he called back: "Let her go".

The balloon was now 100 feet in the air, carried eastward by the wind, the parachute, which had opened with the rush of the air, dangling below.

An eye-witness commented:

How we all watched him ... It was agony almost to breathe. And we dare not, could not, think. I looked around, and everywhere I saw white faces and staring eyes; drawn, tense faces, on which sat now horror, now fear. A minute passed and we saw the parachute open below Lorraine and stop his ascent. It was a kind of anchor.

The situation worsened.

The strain of holding the parachute ... became too great and the captain was forced to let go .... The flimsy silk fell together, in folds and fluttered, a shapeless bundle, to the earth [landing in an Opawa paddock]. The cry that went up from the thousands of spectators was truly one of agonized horror.

Then:

Relieved of the drag caused by the open parachute, the balloon shot upwards with a great rush and the wind caught it and carried it ...towards Sumner. Captain Lorraine could be clearly seen tugging with might and main at the netting, evidently striving to tilt the balloon so that the gas could escape from the opening below. Once, indeed, he succeeded but the top-shaped body righted itself immediately, and, in a few minutes, the naked eye could see only a small round object dark against the great sky.

It seemed that the ascent would never cease. Up and up the balloon journeyed until only those who possessed powerful field-glasses could see anything of the aeronaut's movements. The captain appeared to be drawing the netting down on one side and to be climbing up to the bellying silk. Then it was remembered that he had no knife; that he had had to borrow one to cut the cords at the gas mouth beforehand. What, then, could he do? He might manage to reach the silk and tear it, strong as it was, with his teeth or hands. His only chance of life seemed to lie in his own nerve and strength. If he could turn the balloon ever so slightly so as to allow the gas to escape gradually, he would descend.

The event proved that one or other of these courses must have been adopted. The great globe travelled away for half an hour ... and it became evident that the captain had gone out past the coastline. Those who possessed field glasses were the centre of knots of eager enquirers and when, at last, it seemed that the balloon was collapsing and that it was acting as a parachute, though a poor one, folk breathed easier and the set, anxious look disappeared from their faces. By a quarter to five the speck of black against the sky was no longer visible and the fate of the aeronaut became a matter for conjecture.

Cabs, traps and cycles raced down Ferry Road. One Sumner woman insisted that her domestic fowls cackled loudly and craned their necks to look at the balloon as it sailed high over the Port Hills with Lorraine sitting quietly in the ropes waiting for the final fall. At 5 p.m. the fog-horn sounded the alarm to bring out the lifeboat which pulled through the heavy surf on the bar.

John Toomey, signalman at the South Head of Lyttelton Harbour, was the sole witness of the final act in the tragedy. When half way across the entrance to Port Levy, the balloon fell, 'like a stone', into the water. For a time it floated on the surface with Lorraine sitting in the middle (he carried no life jacket). He was numb, exhausted and may have suffered an injury after falling with 'frightful velocity'. Soon afterwards vessels arrived to scour the scene.

The feeling of sympathy for the unfortunate aeronaut was deepened when Mrs. Lorraine reached Lyttelton, by train, at 6 p.m. However, the search vessels found nothing and Mrs. Lorraine returned to Christchurch on the 9.45 p.m. train. Next day a vessel searched the cold and choppy surf, two constables being accompanied by Mrs. Lorraine, her sister and three of her brothers. However, 'the whirling gulls and ... urgent shags were the only sign of life. The sea revealed nothing but writhing kelp'. Neither the aeronaut nor his equipment was ever seen again.

The *Press* wrote:

Not one of the thousand spectators who gathered at Lancaster Park yesterday afternoon to witness the balloon ascent of Captain Lorraine would willingly pass through a period of such awful anxiety and suspense as that which then fell to their lot. It is thrilling and exciting enough ...to watch an intrepid aeronaut clinging to his great, swelling balloon, carried up to the clouds till he is lost to sight and nothing but a speck remains visible in the vault; and then to see him drop, and as his parachute opens above him like a tiny umbrella, make a long, slow, slanting descent to the earth. There is a fascination in such an exhibition of daring and skill, and the spectators gain something of the performer's confidence, feeling sure that, with his experience and strength, he will return in safety. But there was an element in yesterday's ascent which robbed it of all enjoyment as a spectacle. If there was a fascination in the affair, it was the fascination of horror; and if eyes strained eagerly to watch each development, they strained with anxiety and fear. Nervous and helpless thousands of men and women saw Captain Lorraine borne away to his death. Hoping against hope, in suspense the more terrible because the adventurer was beyond the aid of their hands, they gazed at the fast diminishing spot against the eastern sky. Even while they endeavoured to persuade themselves that the man might return safely, they felt in their hearts that there could be but one ending, and that a tragic one. When at last he could be seen no more, conjecture took the place of certainty. Nothing but absolute self-command and marvellous power, crowned by a superhuman effort of daring and strength, could give him life. Yet he seems to have made that effort, and it was in a battle against the waves of the sea that he finally met his death.

The city and port shared Mrs. Lorraine's grief. The mayor of Christchurch arranged a sacred concert in the Opera House as a benefit for Frances Lorraine. The Canterbury Athletic and Cycling Club proposed to give her the whole of the takings for the 10

November meeting at which the captain was supposed to appear. Newspapers opened subscription lists. Small boys who had taken their Guy Fawkes round the town gave most of their money to the relief fund. An anonymous letter claimed that the

Lorraines were living in sin but the committee of the Lorraine Benefit produced, in rebuttal, the relevant marriage certificate.

Frances Lorraine of Montreal Street, Sydenham, Christchurch, was 23 at the time of her husband's death.

Frances' mother was born Rosa or Rose Erbst, in Poland, about 1843. A domestic servant of 25 who claimed to be but 21, she emigrated from England as a provincial-government assisted immigrant on the ship *Light brigade* in 1868. She had with her no family members.

Rosa married Antonio or Anthony Juriss, an Austrian, who is variously described as a dealer and fisherman. There were several children, some baptized in the Catholic and others in the Anglican church.

Rose had a public profile. She was... a linguist of wide knowledge ... [and] called on at times to act as an interpreter in the law courts and government departments, some of the early settlers being people from Europe and in need of some assistance'.

Rose spent the virtually the whole of her adult life in Canterbury, 'seeing the many changes which occurred in ... those years with great interest'. On 7 August 1907 Anthony Juriss, 76, died of heart disease at the family home in Waltham Road and Rose moved to Frances' house at 23 Baretta Street. There the daughter died of cancer of the uterus. She had kept her husband's professional name and never remarried. Frances' *Press* death notice states that she was the 'wife of the late Captain Charles Lorraine' and 'eldest daughter of Mrs. Juriss, Baretta Street, Spreydon .... Deeply mourned. No mourners by request. Private interment'.

The gravestone bears the words: 'Frances (Lottie) Lorraine, wife of the late Captain Charles Lorraine, died 7 May 1922, aged 45 years'. Rose lived on, being 'held in high esteem by all classes of the community'. She died at Baretta Street, after a short illness, on 24 August 1929. The death notice describes her as the widow of Anthony. However, she is buried with her daughter, not with her husband.

Nos. 3350-51 relate to Charles, son of Anthony and Rose Juriss, brother of Lottie Lorraine and husband of Amelia Juriss. A corporal in the Canterbury Regiment of the First New Zealand Expeditionary Force, he died, aged 62, on 3 April 1947. Amelia Juriss died on 23 October 1960. She is buried in Area 4 Row No. 5010.

**Row P**  
**No. 3391**  
**Brittenden**

In February 1877, at Waimate, Edward Brittenden joined the railway service as a shunter. While he was there the branch was opened and he held the points of the first train that went through to the town. At Waimate, he saw the first Christchurch-Dunedin train. Prior to that date trains had gone only as far as Oamaru. There was, at the time, no appeal against a grievance, real or fancied, no classification and the

manager's word was law. After two years, the manager commented: "You're a good stamp of a man for a guard" and Brittenden was promoted.

Brittenden went from Waimate to Ashburton to Oamaru. While at Oamaru and, soon after, at Christchurch, he was guard on the south express. In all, he served 34 years as a guard. At a quarter to one on a Sunday morning in December 1912, he 'dismounted from his last train, handed in his last report and left the railway service'.

Brittenden was 'pleasantly communicative to a reporter who visited him at his home and plunged into reminiscences of the early time of the railways.' As express guard, he was in charge of the safety of governors and prime ministers. Another railway official asked a woman what description of ticket she wanted, the query being put simply as "Single?" She replied angrily: "No, married."

Of his employers Brittenden said:

The department has treated me very well .... My life on the railway has been an enjoyable one. But I cannot say I am sorry to be leaving. After 36 years on the trains one grows tired of it .... It will be pleasant to potter about my garden, devote myself to my hobby [model ship building] and relax ....

Edward Brittenden married Kate Scott. Their third daughter, Polly, 15, died on 9 January 1901, and a son, Charles, 22, was killed at Gallipoli on 22 May 1915. Edward, 72, died on 11 March 1925. A daughter, Elizabeth, 47, died 4 August 1929 and Kate, 82, on 21 May 1942.

Several of Edward's grandchildren were well-known locally, among them a cricket writer, Richard, and W. J. A., headmaster of Aranui High School and, later, a writer, especially on the subject of historical buildings.

**Area 5**  
**Row B**  
**No. 3589**

William David Mitten, 25, a blacksmith, died on 23 January 1905. His wife, Kate Elizabeth, 67, died on 11 July 1951.

William Mitten was a son of David Mitten and his wife, Cornwall-born Martha Northey. David – and his son – may not have known Martha's secret, that, in England, in 1873, she gave birth to an ex-nuptial daughter, usually known as Patty. Martha's parents and siblings emigrated to Canterbury, leaving Patty in England with her mother and foster-mother, Mrs. Wearne. After much pleading with the immigration authorities, the Northeys managed to bring Martha to Canterbury. For a time the Northeys wrote to Mrs. Wearne, promising her money and the opportunity to bring out the baby. Eventually Mrs. Wearne received her last letter from New Zealand. Soon after Martha married David Mitten.

Mrs. Wearne and her foster-child enjoyed a close relationship. When the old lady died, Patty emigrated – not to relatives in New Zealand but to Canada where she married

and had a daughter of her own. In 1981 the daughter, now herself elderly, contacted Christchurch City Libraries and found basic information about her grandmother's career in the Antipodes. She also provided the library with copies of the letters which the Northeys had written to England in the years immediately after they had emigrated. These provide a colourful picture of life in Canterbury from a much neglected point-of-view, that of the working class immigrant.

**No. 3613**  
**Juriss**

Here are buried members of the Juriss family whose son-in-law and brother-in-law was Captain Lorraine. John, 36, eldest son of Anthony and Rose Juriss, died on 16 October 1906. Anthony, 76, died on 7 August 1907. Lloydie, 3 ½, son of Alex and L. Juriss, died on 15 December 1908.

**Row C**  
**No. 3789**  
**Feast**

From 1853-76 New Zealand had a semi-federal system with a central government and several provincial governments. The police were a branch of provincial government. From 1862 Canterbury operated a police system modelled on that in Victoria and led by an officer from that area, Commissioner Robert Shearman.

Harry Feast was born in London about 1837. On 15 November 1865 he joined the police at Christchurch, becoming head of the detective service. Barry Thomson wrote of him:

He was one of the most successful pioneering detectives in New Zealand. He investigated almost every major crime in Canterbury between 1865 and 1877. He was a man of considerable imagination with his investigative techniques, and was probably the first policeman in Christchurch to act as an undercover decoy.

In the late 1860s, at night, a man terrorized women pedestrians by jumping out at them. Feast dressed as a woman and thus captured the miscreant. A local versifier wrote on the subject, ending with the lines:

Inspector Harry Feast, do you suppose  
that we don't know you in women's clothes?

Feast investigated Simon Cedeno's 9 January 1871 murder of Margaret Burke. Margaret was buried in the Roman Catholic section of the Barbadoes Street Cemetery and, for 90 years, it was claimed that her gravestone 'bled.' The case did not demand much lateral thought. Simon Cedeno, a Central American Negro servant of Cheviot 'wool king' William Robinson, stabbed Margaret in front of his mistress, her daughters and a future son-in-law. When led away, Cedeno boasted: "You kill Maoris and wild cattle but I kill English girls. That is proper game for me." Cedeno was hanged at the Lyttelton Gaol at 8 a.m. on 5 April 1871.

There was public and political criticism of Shearman. Statements were made that the high regard in which the police were held was due in part to the ability of Inspector Peter Pender but, more especially, to the skills of his right-hand man, Detective Feast.

Feast was promoted to inspector on 2 July 1875. When the provincial government was abolished, Central Government took charge of policing. Feast was put in charge of the Kaiapoi district in September 1877 and, in November, was posted to Greymouth. He protested and had to be firmly reminded that the 'public service is to be considered and not the convenience of individuals.'

In October 1880 the number of policemen in the country was reduced. Some men agreed to stay on while receiving a reduction in rank and salary. Others - Feast among them - accepted a lump sum in compensation and retired from the force. There were a number of protests at the loss of a popular and skilled officer. In February 1882 Feast opened a private detective agency in Cathedral Square. He also worked as commercial agent. About 1901 Harry and Lizzie Feast settled at Sumner.

On 7 April 1902 'well-known private detective' Harry Feast boarded the 5.15 p.m. tram for Sumner. Although he boarded the vehicle outside the Caversham Hotel, fellow travellers thought him 'perfectly sober.'

It was the practice of many to stand or sit on the tram platforms and Feast sat on the front platform of the second car even though several seats were available. The cars were travelling round the bend at Moncks Bay at a speed of about 12 miles an hour when Feast was thrown off. He 'seemed to give a big jump as if to get well clear of the wheels' and fell heavily on his face and shoulder about six yards from the tram. The conductor, Alexander Merritt, immediately blew his whistle and the tram was backed up to where Feast lay insensible. He was taken into Sumner but there was a fracture at the base of his skull. At 8 p.m., just as the ambulance from Christchurch Hospital arrived, Feast died. A jury returned a verdict of 'accidental death.'

Harry Feast's widow, Lizzie, 61, died on 23 September 1911. A Feast daughter, Lizzie, wife of George Goodchild, died on 5 June 1943 and is buried with her parents.

A son, H. S. (Bert) became long-serving Town Clerk of Christchurch.

**Row C**  
**No. 3652**  
**Gee**

Born at Lambeth, London, in 1829 Thomas Major Gee went to school at St. George's, Camberwell. He became a teacher, receiving a certificate from the Privy Council's Committee of Education. Second master at St. Mary's, Tothill Fields, Westminster, for two years, he was afterwards headmaster for eight years. On 25 December 1851, at St. Mary's, Tothill Fields, he married Rebecca Mayston.

In 1859 the Gees emigrated to Lyttelton on the *Zealandia*. His father already had a bakery and confectioner's business in the port town and Thomas was a general storekeeper, probably in partnership with the older man.

An energetic man, Thomas was a member of the Lyttelton Anglican vestry and, in 1864, was elected to the municipal committee which had the power to strike rates. He was re-elected in 1866 but, during the following year, was in financial difficulties and had to call his creditors together.

Other members of the Gee family moved to Christchurch. In 1869 Thomas followed, becoming churchwarden at St. Luke's as well as being in charge at St. Luke's School. When his engagement there was up, he established and, for 14 years, ran a private school, the Christchurch Academy, 'one of the best known boys' schools' in the city. The academy occupied the block in Manchester Street which was bounded by Worcester and Gloucester streets. The house had once been the home of Judge Gresson and John Etherden Coker had afterwards had a hotel and pleasure grounds on the site.

Gee was churchwarden, nominator, chorister and Sunday School teacher at St. Saviour's, as well as chairman of the lay committee of the Diocesan Choral Society. Perhaps this continued involvement with the church led to his appointment, in 1895, to the position of diocesan clerk. He was 66 at the time and still held the post in 1903. Gee was president of the British Israel Society which studied 'the Lost Tribes of Israel, the exact meaning of certain measurements of the Pyramids in so far as they concerned the end of the world and suchlike matters.'

The Gees had a large family, some of whom predeceased their parents. In 1903 there were two sons and six daughters.

The Sydenham Cemetery gravestone has details of Rebecca Gee, 79, who died on 26 December 1905; Thomas Major Gee, 81, who died on 12 April 1911; and spinster daughters, Eleanor Frances, 38, and Rebecca Jane, 85, who died on Christmas Day 1898 and 20 February 1943 respectively.

**Row E**  
**No. 3796**  
**Griffiths**

Austin Secundus Griffiths was born in England about 1851. On 27 June 1874 he left Plymouth as one of 33 government-assisted emigrants bound for Canterbury on the 'fine clipper vessel' *Merope*. The vessel also carried a large number of saloon passengers and the British astronomical expedition for observing the transit of Venus. As on other occasions, the passengers were encouraged to keep diaries and Austin's has survived. A copy is held at Christchurch City Libraries.

The fact that the diary is an example of copperplate handwriting shows that Griffiths had a sound basic education. Alas, the diarist concerned himself mainly with the wind, rain, speed of the vessel and its latitude and longitude.

Some entries read:

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>: weather very fine, making headway from 10 to 12 knots ....Friday 10<sup>th</sup>: got up at 5 a.m. We sighted the peak of Teneriffe. We had a fair wind all day, 10 knots an hour .... Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, very rough winds. The boiler started to work again. Latitude 13.42 S., Longitude 35.25 West.

Occasionally Griffiths commented briefly on the highlights, discomforts and tragedies of shipboard life:

We entered the Bay of Biscay when almost all the passengers were sick ....Sighted some rocks called the 12 Apostles. Passed a wrecked vessel at 4 a.m. laying bottom side up .... A female child born on board .... At 7.30 a.m. a male child born. Light southerly winds all day and night in Latitude 48.20 S Longitude 146.20 E .... At 8 p.m. another male child born .... Light fair winds all day and night. At 3 p.m. divine service on board. Two christenings on board in the first class saloon .... We had an assize trial on board over Mr. Paris, the agent, for [being] very drunk and disorderly .... Trial still continues .... Child died .... Buried the child.

On 28 September the ship reached Lyttelton and commenced 'discharging emigrants and luggage to the depot and different parts of the country.'

The diary ends with a tribute to the migrants' 'constable':

We think it our duty to make Mr. George Hale some little acknowledgement of his meritorious conduct as constable on board ... the ... *Merope*. We found him a very civil, industrious, clean, honest, sober man. He was considered by all a very worthy man and one that we hope will prosper in his new home, New Zealand.

The newspapers stated that, during the voyage, there had been 'no serious cases of sickness', that there had been 'two deaths (of infants) and six births' and that, at Lyttelton, the immigrants had presented testimonials to Captain Williams, the surgeon-superintendent and officers.' The immigrants themselves appeared 'a very healthy lot of people' who would doubtless make good colonists, while the single girls were 'mostly domestic servants.'

In Christchurch Griffiths worked as a painter and paperhanger. He experienced several domestic tragedies. Penelope Griffiths, 43, died on 28 March 1903. A daughter, Penelope, 26, died of 'melancholia' on 2 July 1906. The couple's third son, 19 year old Edward Albert, also a painter, died of pulmonary tuberculosis on 12 May 1910. An infant grand-daughter, Iris Pearl, died on 31 December 1921.

Passionate about bowls, Austin Griffiths was, for many years, a member of the Sydenham Bowling Club. In 1922 he served as president. On Saturday 13 October 1923 he was sitting on the bank watching a match at the opening of the club when, suddenly he collapsed. Dr. Currie, long-time Sydenham physician, was called and pronounced that life was extinct, after which the body was removed to Griffiths'

home at 136 Brougham Street. The death 'cast a gloom over the proceedings at the green and all the games were immediately stopped.'

An inquest was deemed unnecessary as the doctor who had attended Griffiths was prepared to certify that, for six months, he had been suffering from heart disease.

**Row F**  
**No. 3921**  
**Malone**

Thomas Joseph Malone, a son of Philip Malone and May Malone nee Appleby, was born on 17 May 1876, at Christchurch. Honora Agnes Gilmore, daughter of Michael Gilmore and Bridged nee Hanley. Honora had also been born in the city in 1868. On 25 September 1905, at the Pro-Cathedral, where the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament now stands, Thomas, 29, married Honora, who was 37 but gave her age as 30. The Malones and Gilmores were part of the city's working class Irish Catholic minority. Thomas, Philip and Michael all gave their occupation as 'labourer.'

Thomas became well known beyond his community and class. A right arm slow bowler, capable of 'breaking the ball either way,' he played cricket for the Addington, Sydenham and West Christchurch clubs and for Canterbury between 1896-1909. In the 1896-97 season, during a game against Otago, he put on his best bowling display at inter-provincial level, taking seven wickets for 30 runs.

Almost a decade later, at the end of the 1905-06 season, Warwick Armstrong led the Melbourne Cricket Club in a tour of New Zealand. Once, at Dunedin, the visitors narrowly avoided defeat. Elsewhere they won by a comfortable margin. Armstrong had great personal success, his total score being 956, of which 355 were made in a match against Southland. His 104 wickets were obtained at an average cost of 9.8 runs. There was one test, at Lancaster Park, on 23, 24, 26 and 27 March. The New Zealand team was chosen from the various clubs in the colony and, although the game was not a first class fixture, the locals are regarded as national representatives. Of the 11 originally selected, four could not take part. Malone, one of several newcomers, 'was ... put in at the eleventh hour' when another player injured his shoulder.

On the first day of the match, the weather was 'execrable', with rain threatening from the previous day, a 'lowering sky' and chilling east wind'. The locals, who batted first, showed themselves 'quite at sea on the hard and fiery pitch'. Several went out chasing 'balls outside the off stump that should have been severely left alone.' Malone made one run and was then bowled. He was the last man out. The innings had lasted one hour and 55 minutes.

The Australians came out and Malone bowled the opening batsman with his first delivery. He 'sent down some really good balls', and, when he took his third wicket, the miserable spectators in the eastern pavilion shouted: "Well done, Tommy." With the visitors' total at 142, rain and failing light put an end to the day's play.

Heavy rain fell at day's end and throughout the night, causing the abandonment of play on Saturday. On Sunday the teams were 'hospitably entertained' at Charles

Clark's fashionable home, 'Thorrington'. At luncheon former Christchurch mayor Arthur Rhodes 'proposed the health of the visiting team ... paid a tribute to their prowess ... and hoped that their visit would result in an improvement in ... New Zealand cricket.'

On the Monday a south-west wind blew across the grounds. The New Zealanders' fielding was 'again very good, especially when it is remembered that the bitterly cold wind made it difficult to handle the ball.' The Australian made 228 runs in an innings which lasted three and a half hours. There was no further play as rain swept across the ground.

A journalist said of Malone that he:

... covered himself with glory ... his bowling.... was fairly accurate both in length and direction and his big break and variety of pace kept the batsmen pretty quiet. Even Armstrong was frequently stuck up by him and he finished ... the innings by getting the last four wickets in 10 balls for three runs.

The man who was included only to fill a gap had captured seven wickets for 64 runs. On the final day, 'under most trying and difficult conditions', the home side 'made a good and unexpected stand'. As North Island team members had to catch the evening steamer from Lyttelton, it had been decided that the game should not go on past 4.30 p.m.. Malone, the last man, was clean bowled for nought at 4.20 p.m. However, in three hours and 20 minutes, the team had reached 'the really creditable score of 167'. As there was no time for the Australians to play again, the game was declared a draw. Of the men who made their debut in this test, Harold Monaghan, William Redgrave and Thomas Malone would never again play for their country while William Brook-Smith would make but one more appearance.

For 30 years Malone worked as a grinder for P. and D. Duncan. Thomas died of myocarditis on 5 June 1933. Honora had a stroke and was confined to bed for several years. A 'patient sufferer', she died at Burwood Hospital on 12 May 1945.

## **Row H**

### **No. 4023**

#### **Bradshaw**

Born in Lancashire in 1876 and the son of a chemist, John Christopher Bradshaw studied the organ and graduated Doctor of Music from the Royal Manchester College of Music. On 24 February 1902 he married Edith Garrod. Edith bore seven children.

Bradshaw was a frail little man and his health was poor. He sought employment in a mild climate and, in 1902, was appointed organist and master of choristers at the Anglican Cathedral, Christchurch.

From 1905-12 and 1915-21 Bradshaw was conductor of the Christchurch Musical Union. From 1905-17 he conducted a well-established men's choir, the Liedertafel, but left after a dispute. He founded and, till 1940, was director of the Christchurch

Male Voice Choir whose members were drawn from the men and boys in the cathedral choir.

Bradshaw became known to the general public when, in 1906-07, he was official organist to the New Zealand International Exhibition. In 1908 he became city organist, giving regular recitals. He had a repertoire of nearly 700 items which extended from Bach to the music of his contemporaries (but excluding anything decidedly 'modern'). From the late 1930s programmes were broadcast from the Civic Theatre.

At the cathedral Bradshaw maintained a full choir of boys and men who sang the regular round of the traditional English liturgy. In their season he gave the oratorios *Passion*, *Crucifixion* and *Messiah*. He was in charge at memorial services to two kings, farewelled Captain Scott and was at the service when the remainder of his ill-starred company returned from the Antarctic.

Bradshaw was among the top organists in the world and his choir achieved international status. To be a voluntary member was an honour. On pain of expulsion, such men were required to attend a very high percentage of the services; most attended every service. To be a modestly paid lay clerk was even more of an honour.

Bradshaw took but scant time off when his daughter, Amy, who had been born on 13 February 1908, died on 22 October 1909. When a relative of Sammy Morgan died, Morgan arranged for a voluntary member to take his place. Bradshaw listened to Morgan's explanation then commented: "It was your place to be in the choir." When parents kept a chorister away, Bradshaw commented: "Does your mother think you'll melt?" The boy was never away again.

Some of the men cursed the doctor – but after the services and away from the Cathedral. On Fridays, when men and boys practiced together, the latter occasionally witnessed the spectacle of adult members, Fred Bullock and Sammy Morgan, standing in the chancel and arguing with the doctor in the organ loft.

Years later an ex-chorister wrote that 'it was purgatory living with the doctor' and that 'he was a martinet'. Certainly he would not accept anything which was flat or out of tune. At the beginning of his reign, two lay clerks were expelled because of their inadequacies, one a close relative of a member of the clerical hierarchy.

In practice with the boys, Bradshaw instructed them to open their mouths to the extent of two fingers. The boys practiced in the morning and afternoon of each school day and, if a particularly difficult anthem was to be sung, would expect an extra practice on Sunday. Bradshaw would walk around the organ loft, banging a hand against a book and keeping time. He would then come down, say "Flat," "You were a quarter of a tone flat on line so-or-so", or "Good." One chorister was to recall having to keep a diary which contained the doctor's comments. The boys worked very hard, their only break being three weeks in January.

Bradshaw's tongue was his chief means of discipline. If the boys were a semi-tone out of tune in a service, they might get an extra hour of practice or be re-arranged so that the top boy was placed below the smallest boy. He used part of a motor tyre as a strap.

Some imaginative choristers got hold of it on occasion, cut off a tiny fraction and hoped that the doctor would not notice it getting shorter and shorter. Behind him Bradshaw had a mirror; he could thus watch the boys during a practice. Len Barnes was, in this way, caught smiling at the girls in the congregation and seeking a smile in return. Barnes was banished. Eventually Bradshaw climbed down and walked in the rain to ask Barnes to return. He discovered that the family had moved and had to make a long journey to their new home.

On one occasion the organ failed. The choristers secretly enjoyed the experience of seeing the placement of a tiny harmonium being placed between the choir stalls with Bradshaw struggling to get noise out of it.

Bradshaw, who had a long and fiery relationship with the cathedral chapter, resigned in 1937. He had been appointed part-time music lecturer at Canterbury University College in 1902 and Dean of the Faculty of Music in 1924. He now became Professor of Music. He retired because of ill-health in 1941.

Outside music Bradshaw was a keen motorist and mountaineer. Mountaineering cured Bradshaw of his asthma but almost claimed his life when he and a guide fell one thousand feet.

In the 1936 book *In the public eye*, there is verse about Dr. Bradshaw:

When doctors after pro and con,  
their two skilled hands in Antiphon,  
set to and operate upon  
patient throbbing organs, alas for folk like you and me,  
finances soon get up a tree.  
It simply means we've got to be  
Budding Pierpont Morgans.  
But this grave doctor, graciously,  
thunderous, calm or tremblingly,  
just for folk like you and me  
deftly fingers organs  
in such a way that tired folk  
are soul refreshed, with lifted yoke.  
Round discord genius wraps a cloak  
of healing from great organs.

Merewood Avenue, Cashmere, is named after Bradshaw's home.

Edith Bradshaw, 69, died on 22 May 1944. On 2 September 1946 Bradshaw married Muriel Innes. He died, aged 73, on 16 January 1950. Muriel Innes died in 1992.

**No. J**  
**Nos. 4235, 4236, 4237, 4238**  
**Baldwin**

Born at Basingstoke, Hampshire, in 1840, John Baldwin was educated at the national school there. In 1853, at Oldham, near Birmingham, he became a pupil-teacher, a teenager but a few years older than his charges, who taught all day and, before and after school, received instruction from the headmaster. After five years' service, he secured a first class scholarship and undertook two years' instruction at St. Mark's College, Chelsea. He gained a first class certificate in the second division and, at the end of his training, spent four years as headmaster at Wembley, Herefordshire and also taught at other schools.

Baldwin married Mary Ann Payling who had been born Mary Ann Oliver on 4 December 1832. She was eight years her husband's senior and had been married to a gardener, George Payling.

When Canterbury was founded in 1850, Lord Lyttelton was chairman of the Canterbury Association's Committee of Management. Twenty years later the provincial government asked him to find and arrange to send out high grade primary school teachers. John Baldwin was one of those selected and, in 1874, arrived on the *Northampton*. Appointed headmaster at Brookside, Baldwin supplemented his income by farming 100 acres. He was vestryman and organist at St. John's Anglican church, Leeston.

In 1877 the inspectors thought Baldwin's school 'well organized and efficiently conducted'. Next year the 'order and efficiency [were] exemplary'; while, in 1879 the school was 'under its present teacher ... likely to keep a prominent place among our best country schools'. In 1880 the examination passes were creditable both to teachers and pupils. Arithmetic was the weakest subject, 'the children not being able to answer questions requiring any thought. Order and discipline [were] all that could be desired'.

An ambitious man, Baldwin sought to lead a bigger school. In December 1882 he became Sydenham's third headmaster, the Brookside people congratulating him on his appointment. Sydenham was already developing, and, in Baldwin's time, would secure its reputation for its pupils' penmanship and skill at arithmetic. Such skills brought employment, merchants and tradesmen seeking out Sydenham pupils.

Baldwin's headmistress was Jessie Bowmaker while the infant mistress was Mary Hall. The latter had 500 pupils under her supervision and this was but one sign that Sydenham was bulging at the seams. Further evidence was shown when extra rooms had to be found in the Oddfellows' Hall in Colombo Street and the Church of England Sunday School rooms. Some relief had already come in 1881 with the establishment of a school at Addington. Other schools – Waltham, Somerfield and Beckenham – were to siphon off more pupils. Nevertheless, the roll was still huge.

One pupil was to recall:

I ... remember one day the roll was exactly a thousand present in the morning and John Baldwin marked the occasion by giving the school, above the infants, a half-holiday, the afternoon to be spent doing drill in Sydenham Park.

At the time of Baldwin's retirement, Sydenham was the biggest primary school in New Zealand. In the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the expansion of industry was to lead to its demise.

In 1883 the inspectors commented: 'The tone of the school under the new headmaster has greatly improved. Organisation [is] good. The headmaster teaches throughout the school, instructing and encouraging his teachers in their work'. Although the reading was bad in 1884, the work generally met with the inspectors' approval, discipline was 'firm and even' and the children 'orderly and well-behaved'. In 1889 the inspectors' adopted an almost literary tone:

The general arrangements for conducting the school are excellent. All details have been carefully thought out and seldom beforehand with the result that the school presents the appearance of a highly complex machine running with great smoothness and regularity.

In 1899 the inspectors wrote:

[The] school [is] well organized in all features of class arrangement and in the skilful disposal of the services of the teachers. Our conception, however, of a headmaster's duties includes some more definite share in the teaching work than is involved in effective supervision.

Obviously, as he aged, Baldwin cut down the time he spent at the chalk face. However, he continued to be the recipient of generally favourable comments. Towards the end the inspectors wrote: 'The school as a whole continues to render good services'. Pupils on the other hand thought the school provided an education which was 'thorough ... if unimaginative.'

The 'E' papers in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century *Appendices to the journals of the House of Representatives* list the names of state primary school teachers, their positions; grading and annual salaries. These papers show that John Baldwin's salary was 266 pounds in 1881; 385 pounds in 1883 and 1884; 391 pounds in 1885; 393 pounds in 1886; 391 pounds in 1887; 382 pounds and five shillings in 1890 and 1892; 380 pounds in 1894; 350 pounds in 1902; 369 pounds and 12 shillings in 1904; 367 pounds and 18 shillings in 1905; and 390 pounds in 1907.

Ex-pupils had mixed feelings about Baldwin. One recalled him standing beneath the large tree in the playground, stick in hand, supervising the children's 9 a.m. arrival.

... His aspect was terrifying, and, rather than join the trembling line of late-comers ranged under the tree for cross-examination, many a tardy schoolboy remained behind the gorse hedge on Colombo Road till dinner time.

Others remembered Baldwin's unashamed use of the cane and strap. One described him as being

... bluff and prone to action – especially with the cane .... The last schoolmaster of 'the old order'. If you had a sum wrong, you had a cut, and he had had long experience with his favourite weapon. It would be a mistake, however, to write him down unkindly. Out of school he could be very friendly and human and it is a tribute to his personality that, notwithstanding his methods, I can recall no one who felt animosity towards him.

Another described Baldwin as a

... great disciplinarian ... but ... still a great consolation to hundreds of boys who were very glad to accept his advice and guidance. His residence stood where the post office is now, and just imagine a big 17 stone man stepping out the front gate, looking up Colombo Road, and seeing a boy doing something wrong. Toot, toot, toot would go his whistle, up he would hold his walking stick, and no boy dared to disobey. He would be helped on the road with a couple of the best. He would be worth his weight in gold these days. If things got a bit hay-wire, he would feed the Standard Six boys up on the Ten Commandments and 'Honour thy father and mother' was his strong point ....

Sir James Hight said that Baldwin was 'big, bluff, bearded, dominant, outspoken [but]not particularly learned.' When boys mobbed an old woman, Baldwin thrashed some of them and a parent charged him with assault. The Bench considered the punishment deserved and not unduly severe.

Baldwin took the boys on school camps to Governors Bay. As the years passed the headmaster – 'very fat, red faced and choleric' – grew increasingly conscious that, at these events, he could maintain little personal dignity. As the group climbed ridges, a boy would walk in front of Baldwin and pull on his stick, while another would push from behind.

Baldwin was active in the primary teachers' union, the New Zealand Educational Institute; 'there was no more fearless or determined battler for the rights of school masters than Mr. Baldwin'. He was also prominent in the Anglican church. In 1883 he became people's warden at St. Saviour's church and the parish's synodsmen. Baldwin proved 'an energetic member of the Diocesan Synod'.

There was an unobtrusive side to Baldwin's character. One ex-pupil wrote: 'It was only after his death that we learned of his many gifts of coal etc. to poor families.'

Baldwin resigned in January 1907. He may have feared retirement, 'his disposition being essentially an active one.' Still, people who were in doubt or trouble continued to visit him for advice as they had in past years. Also, Baldwin thought that he would be able to watch the brilliant career of George Payling, his wife's son by her first marriage, a tea merchant and heavy importer 'of the leading lines of groceries and

general goods.' At the time Payling was Mayor of Christchurch. Alas, on 30 April 1907, he was defeated at the polls.

There yet remained the career of a daughter, Kate, a more appealing personality than the old dominie.

Born at Wickham, Hampshire, England about 1865, Kate was educated at the Brookside School. In 1881, at Brookside, she became a pupil-teacher, becoming later a pupil-teacher at St. Albans. She spent a year at Normal School and went on to become fifth assistant mistress at the school. In September 1886 her class 'passed a very creditable examination.'

In 1887 the inspectors wrote:

In Standard 3 (Miss Baldwin) arithmetic, dictation and (in the lower division) reading are very good, grammar and geography only passable, and copy books leave something to be desired. Specimen object lesson good ....

After two years Kate became the school's first assistant mistress.

In October 1888:

The ... mistress, with fresh duties, has produced very fair results in a very large class which forms the bulk of Standard 4. The upper divisions, under her superintendence, also make a good appearance.

In August 1889 it was noted that

...Standard 5 has been admirably taught by the first assistant mistress who has risen in a really remarkable way to the responsibilities of her position and proves herself ... one of the most valuable workers at the school.

In July 1891 all the teachers at the Normal School were praised and Kate received special commendation:

The work of the classes is eminently satisfactory, the training ... is of the best kind and the general tone is excellent. The admirable qualities of the work done by Miss Baldwin deserve special notice.

In July 1892 the inspectors wrote:

In Standard 4 and 5 (Miss Baldwin) the good majority of the subjects range from good to excellent and the really admirable qualities of the free hand drawing give a fine impression of what can be achieved in our schools in this direction.

Similar comments were written in 1894:

Standard 5 is a very pleasing class to examine. The girls work well and are very good in all work requiring mechanical precision. Domestic economy is efficiently treated, arithmetic, composition and history are very fair.

At Sydenham John Baldwin – and the inspectors – ignored a basic aspect of health and cleanliness:

Many of the children ... were from homes where lice were taken for granted, and the cleaner mothers were forced to undertake a routine inspection each evening when their children returned from school.

However, in Kate Baldwin, lice met a deadly foe. When, in 1898, she was appointed headmistress of the girls' department at the Gloucester Street (now East Christchurch) School, she freed the school of head lice by spending much time personally combing dirty heads.

Kate continued to receive praise from the inspectors. In 1897 Standard 5 was described thus: '... Reading, dictation, writing and drawing were exceptionally good. Arithmetic very fair. Geography good. Composition has merit.' In 1900 Standard 6 was 'a class whose pleasing qualities testify to the excellent personal influence and practical skill of the headmistress. Its work throughout is of uniform merit.' In 1901 the subjects had been 'very effectively dealt with' and arithmetic and geography were 'exceptionally well done.'

In 1903 it was stated that 'Miss Baldwin's admirable control and the precision of her teaching have again been fruitful of excellent results'. 'In 1905 it was written:

'Standard 6 is a class of special merit, its work worthily representing the efforts of an exceptionally able and intelligent teacher'.

The salary which Kate received reflected her status in the teaching profession. As a pupil teacher, she earned 16 pounds in 1881; 24 pounds in 1882; 32 pounds in 1883; and 40 pounds in 1884. In 1886, at Normal School, she earned 96 pounds and 15 shillings. In 1890, 1892 and 1894 she received 138 pounds.

Primary school teachers were ranked from A1 down to E5. The letters related to their academic qualifications and the numbers to their teaching prowess. Kate's academic qualifications were modest but her teaching ability great. In 1885 her grade was E4, in 1887 D3, in 1890 D2 and, in 1891, D1. Such a certificate was common among head teachers in state schools. In 1902 Kate was paid 201 pounds and five shillings; in 1904 and 1905 205 pounds and, in 1907, 210 pounds.

Kate had, by now, ensured that her name would be known to posterity. The 1903 Canterbury volume of the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* is top-heavy with men – including John Baldwin - who smugly described how, by diligence, they had risen from humble origins and piled up much in the way of worldly goods. Kate belonged to the select group of professional women in this volume who likewise told of their successful endeavours.

Fifty years later E. L. Sapsford was to comment:

Miss Baldwin, a marvellous disciplinarian but respected by all, taught Standard 6 girls .... She always left the class – often for three quarters of an hour at a stretch – just remarking: “Now girls, I leave you on your honour”. Of course, no one ever spoke or misbehaved. Imagine one day when a girl (May Basher), hearing the usual “I leave you on your honour”, called out when she had left the room: “We’ll sit on it”. The funny part about it was that everyone was horrified and not a girl laughed.

Kate had many interests which were associated with education. In 1894 the Canterbury Women’s Institute proposed that the teaching of domestic science should be introduced into New Zealand and, in 1895, the School of Domestic Instruction was established in Lichfield Street with Elizabeth Gard’ner as superintendent. Classes were primarily for women and girls, ‘to thoroughly prepare their daughters or themselves for household duties as mistresses or maids’ though young men ‘preparing for up-country life’ also attended. Gard’ner taught primary school age girls as well, and, in 1907, became head of the domestic science department at the Christchurch Technical College (now Christchurch Polytechnic). In its early days the school was in a precarious financial position but the managing committee, which included Kate Baldwin, gave unwavering support.

Kate obtained certificates and a medallion for first aid and nursing from the St. John Ambulance Association and instructed children in the basics of first aid. Interested in athletics for girls, she read to the New Zealand Educational Institute ‘a highly interesting paper on athletics and school games which gave quite a new impetus to the playground activities in many schools’.

Kate served on the Home Industries Committee at the 1900 Jubilee Exhibition. She was the first woman to be put forward when an equivalent committee was formed to help manage the 1906-07 New Zealand International Exhibition. She prepared schedules, received entries, arranged exhibits but, on the day of the opening, suffered a chill and, shortly afterwards, fell victim to illness. Her school granted her leave of absence.

On 25 February 1907 Kate made her will, her sister, Ada, and George Payling being appointed executors. Kate’s property was to be converted to cash, her debts, funeral and testamentary expenses paid, and her parents made lifetime beneficiaries. After their deaths, the estate was to pass to her sister, Ada, provided that she remained unmarried, a provision doubtless included to prevent an unscrupulous future brother-in-law from getting access to the nest egg. After the ‘decease or marriage of the said Ada Baldwin, whichever first happens’, the property was to go to Kate’s brother, John William, and, after his death, to the two other sisters.

Kate Baldwin’s strength declined slowly during 1907 but it was not till mid-year that ‘all hope of her recovery was finally abandoned.’ On 16 July 1907 Kate, 41, died of ‘jaundice’.

When the news of her death became known at the city and suburban schools... the flags were lowered to half-mast, and, at East Christchurch, the children were dismissed for a half-day as a mark of respect to their late head-mistress.

S. C. Owen, headmaster at East Christchurch said that Kate

... was probably the finest woman teacher in Canterbury and he doubted there had been another who had obtained such excellent results or ... exercised such a powerful influence for good. Even the last report of the educational inspectors, which had come to hand the day before, had referred to her splendid control over her pupils and her powerful and far-reaching influence over them. She was closely in touch with all the girls, especially the seniors.

The *Press* wrote:

The teaching profession ... will mourn the loss of a staunch comrade, a genial companion, a wise and womanly friend. Her pupils will always remember a loving, just and considerate mistress whose too early death has caused to both past and present scholars most heartfelt grief.

Kate Baldwin is one of the small number of women who appear in the G. R. Macdonald biographical dictionary. There she is described as being, in her prime, 'full of bodily and mental vigour'

The Baldwin memorial has the words 'To live in the hearts of those we leave behind us is not to die.' Appropriately on Kate's gravestone there are the words 'Feed my lambs.' John Baldwin, 68, died of a stroke at his residence in Tennyson Street, Beckenham, on 11 January 1909. His memorial includes the words 'Honour thy father and mother.'

George Payling, 54, died on 20 August of the same year and is buried at Linwood. Mary Ann Baldwin died on 9 July 1911.

Other Baldwin daughters entered teaching though none were as successful as Kate. Between 1884-87 Ada was a pupil-teacher at Sydenham, going on to Normal School. An 1888 report noted:

The upper classes of girls ... fail to a very serious extent. Whatever the cause may be, the element of discipline enters largely into it – inexperience suggested in the case of Miss Baldwin.

However, by 1891 the skill with which Ada was preparing her Standard 1 boys for the inspectors' examinations was 'especially worthy of note'. In 1893 Ada's pupils were under 'steady control' and did the work required of them with 'uniform success.'

In 1894 the infant classes were in good order and the evidence of progress left 'a very favourable impression.' In 1896 the three lowest classes were 'excellently taught by Miss Baldwin.' In 1898 Ada did good service in 'introducing her young pupils ... to

the habits of school life and in laying in a suitable foundation in the rudiments on the lines of approved methods.’

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Ada was teaching Standards 2 and 3. In 1901 the inspectors commented:

Standard 2 has been prepared with admirable care and marked success. The writing is exceptionally fine and the general facility with which problems in arithmetic are worked out bear high testimony to the intelligence of the teaching.

In 1904 the inspectors wrote:

Standard 6 has been capably taught and forms a very pleasing class. Reading and comprehension, writing, composition, arithmetic, Geography and drawing are the strongest subjects of a large group ... Grammar alone fails to reach a very satisfactory level of proficiency.

In 1905 Standard 6 was ‘a pleasing class taught with much success and intelligence’; while, in 1907, it was ‘a well conducted class under thorough control.’ In the majority of subjects, ‘satisfactory progress has been made’

In 1888 Ada held an E4 certificate. In 1889 she was ranked D4, in 1895 D3 and, in 1897, C2. However, she never commanded more than a modest salary. She received 16 pounds in 1884 and 1885; 24 pounds in 1886; 32 pounds in 1887; 60 pounds in 1890; 70 pounds in 1892; 60 pounds in 1894; and 125 pounds in 1905.

Ada Baldwin ignored the provisions of her sister’s will. On 22 April 1908, at St. Saviour’s, Ada, 35, spinster, married Cust farmer Charles Ruddenklau, 32, a widower since 18 August 1906, and a son of John Ruddenklau, farmer, and his wife, Agnes Ruddenklau nee Watt.

The Sydenham Cemetery gravestone contains reference to John, Mary Ann and Kate Baldwin. It also contains references to John William Baldwin, 55, who died on 11 April 1920 and his wife, Mary Ann, 89, who died on 4 October 1966.

**Row N**  
**No. 4316**  
**Butler**

There is a mystery about Patrick Butler. In official documents the Irishman tended to be called Patrick Madden. However, to all the world he was known as Patrick – or Patsy – Butler.

In 1863 the youth joined an elder brother, a contractor already domiciled in the colony, and attended St. Michael’s school for about three years. On leaving school he worked in racing stables. In one establishment, that operated at Riccarton by W. C. Webb, ‘the discipline was especially severe.’ He also worked ‘Heathstock’, one of the finest sheep stations in Canterbury, which ran from the Hurunui to the south branch of the

Waipara and from near Waikari back to the Seaward Stream. The Mallock brothers owned the property but Patsy worked for their trainer, Fred Dillon.

Butler's first mount in public was on Richard May Morten's 'Lady of the lake'. He had his first win, at Leeston, on 'Lunatic'. At Dunstan, Otago, he won several races on Mr. Cox's 'Madame'.

Along with his horse racing friend, Dan O'Brien, Butler had 'a rather sensational career' as an athlete. On the goldfields he, O'Brien, and Australian rivals, took part in professional athletic events. Butler was 'great at the hop, step and jump and 'could be depended upon to rattle over a hundred yards in less than 11 seconds'.

A reporter commented:

Butler ... even before leaving school, was no light-weight and, as ... he got bulkier, his opportunities of appearing in silk were limited. Indeed, from the outset, he devoted himself not so much to the riding as to the preparation of horses and, in a few years, he gave up service in the saddle altogether.

Back in Christchurch, Butler showed that 'as a judge of horseflesh and a competent trainer, especially of long-distance horses ... [he] had few equals'. With his first and second purchases, 'Madras' and 'Eclipse', he had moderate success. Then, at a hurdle race at a small meeting in Hawkes Bay Butler saw 'The Agent'. 'Above everything else a true-born Emerald Islander loves a 'lepper' and, in the big chestnut ... Butler conceived he saw an embryo chaser of high class' and paid 50 guineas for the animal.

With 'The Agent' Butler won two Auckland, three Waimate and three Grand National steeplechases. As late as the 1920s no other horse had equalled 'The Agent's' feat of winning the Grand National Steeplechase three times. His success meant that he was asked to train such horses as Matthew Oram's 'Luna' and S. Horsfall's 'King Quail'.

At an Auckland horse sale O'Brien and Butler bought horses which were to become well-known. For 620 guineas O'Brien bought 'an immortal in mighty 'Carbine'.' For 450 guineas Butler bought 'Manton', a brown colt by 'Musket' from 'Tres Deuce'. As a two year old the washy-coloured 'Carbine' made 'Manton' look second rate. Then O'Brien took his horse to Australia where, eventually, he sold him for 6000 guineas.

As a three year old that Butler's horse 'electrified the racing world ... by winning the treble, [New Zealand] Derby, New Zealand Cup and Canterbury Cup at the C.J.C.Spring Meeting'. The jockey, Freeman Holmes, came to Butler as a 12 year old apprentice, spent about eight years with him and rode 'Manton' to his spectacular wins.

A journalist waxed lyrical about 'Manton':

No such feat has been achieved either before or since, and it will probably be some years before we have another equal to such a task, and the task was really a very easy one for 'Manton'.

A more jaded soul commented that these wins 'netted for Butler a very tidy sum.' As a three year old 'Manton' also won the Hawkes Bay Guineas, the Marshal Memorial Stakes at Dunedin and the Wanganui Derby. Butler then took the horse to Australia where he failed. Butler sold the horse, after which it broke down badly and was retired to stud in Victoria.

Butler saw potential in a gelding called 'Liberator' and paid 500 pounds for him. With 'Old Lib' who was 'popular, versatile, and ... top jumper', Butler captured the Great National Hurdle Race, Great Northern Hurdle Race and Great Northern Steeplechase.

Butler, who had been a bookmaker, was hostile to the introduction of the totalizator. However, his downfall was the result of his reckless gambler. When his horse, 'Aurevoir', took the lead at a Timaru race, Butler cried: "Five hundred pounds she is never headed". A runholder accepted the bet and, when his horse was beaten, Butler paid out the large sum without complaint.

Butler's colours, green and white hoops, were familiar to all who took an interest in the turf 'for they have been carried to victory on nearly every racecourse in the colony, from Auckland to Invercargill'. Alas, Butler gambled so much that he had to dispose of his horses and allow the colours to be deregistered. As well, he was forced to sell his stylish property, 'Grip Lodge', Racecourse Road, Riccarton.

On 30 July 1878 Patsy Butler – on this occasion calling himself Patrick Madden - married Ellen Faulkner in the Catholic church, Shands Track, Lincoln. In 1892, at the end of Butler's career as a trainer, a journalist wrote:

Butler became a benedict\* some 10 years ago and he and Mrs. Butler's numerous friends throughout the colony will receive, with unfeigned gladness, tidings of any success that comes their way.

Freeman Holmes went on to fame in racing and trotting, founded a dynasty of horsemen and died in 1967. Butler slid into obscurity. In the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, while 'under the influence of stimulants', he attempted suicide. About 1909 he had the unusual experience of reading his own obituary. A *Sun* reporter wrote later:

The death of 'Manton's' owner was reported in an Auckland paper and generally accepted as correct. It fell to the writer to do his obituary notice and, as one who had known and respected him for many years, it was done full justice to. Some months later I was at a South Canterbury meeting and one of the first people I dropped across was a very much alive Patsy Butler. After explaining that, like Mark Twain, 'the report of his death had been greatly exaggerated', the genial Irishman thanked me for the nice things I had said about him and suggested that the event should be celebrated by drinking his health.

Eventually Patsy entered Nazareth House in Brougham Street. The Catholics refused to acknowledge him by his famous pseudonym. He succumbed to a stroke one Sunday evening in August 1924 and the nuns ensured that the Sydenham Cemetery burial book recorded the death of Patrick Madden.

The *Press*, which was not so legalistic, recorded that Butler had been ‘known from one end of New Zealand to the other as a most astute judge of horseflesh’ and as ‘one of the best-known trainers’. It commented mysteriously that, ‘for many years past Mr. Butler had taken little active interest in the preparation of horses for the racing track’; and concluded: ‘There will be general regret at his death. He was a generous and broad-minded Irishman and one who had proved himself a master in his profession.’ The *Sun* echoed these sentiments, stating that Butler was ‘generous to a fault [and] ... beloved by thousands who knew him in the hey-day of his racing career.’

When Butler died, there were insufficient funds to bury him in appropriate style. James Poff of Methven sent a donation to the *Weekly press* and sought to open a fund so that a suitable gravestone might be erected. More than 200 people contributed five shillings each. Butler’s memorial has no reference to Patrick Madden. It reads:

Erected by the racing public of New Zealand: Patsy Butler (trainer of ‘Liberator’) died 24 August 1924, aged 73. ‘And if they have racing hereafter ...’

In the index to the Registrar-General’s 1924 deaths No. 2576 of 1924 relates to a man called both Patrick Madden and Patrick Butler.

\* benedict or benedick: a name for a newly married man, especially for one who has long held out against marriage – from Benedick in Shakespeare’s *Much ado about nothing*.

From *Chambers’ 20<sup>th</sup> century dictionary: new edition*, 1983

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